

ADVENTURES
in WONDERLAND

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in

Wonderland

JUNE NO. 2

10¢

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.A.
AUTHORITY

LEV GLEASON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER



YOU DARE TO
CROSS SWORDS
WITH CAPTAIN
PEGLEG, ME
BUCKO!

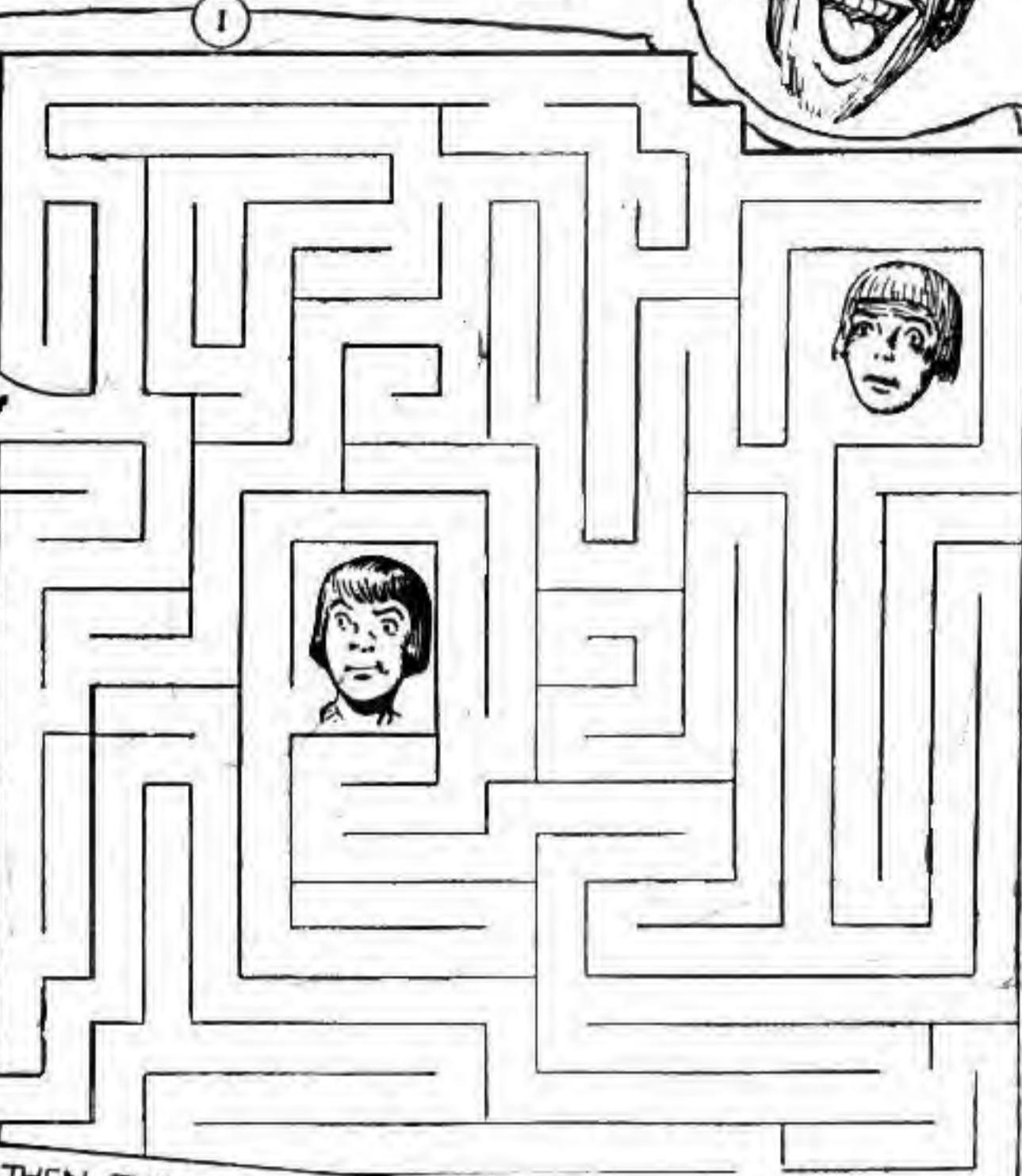
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PUZZLE PAGE

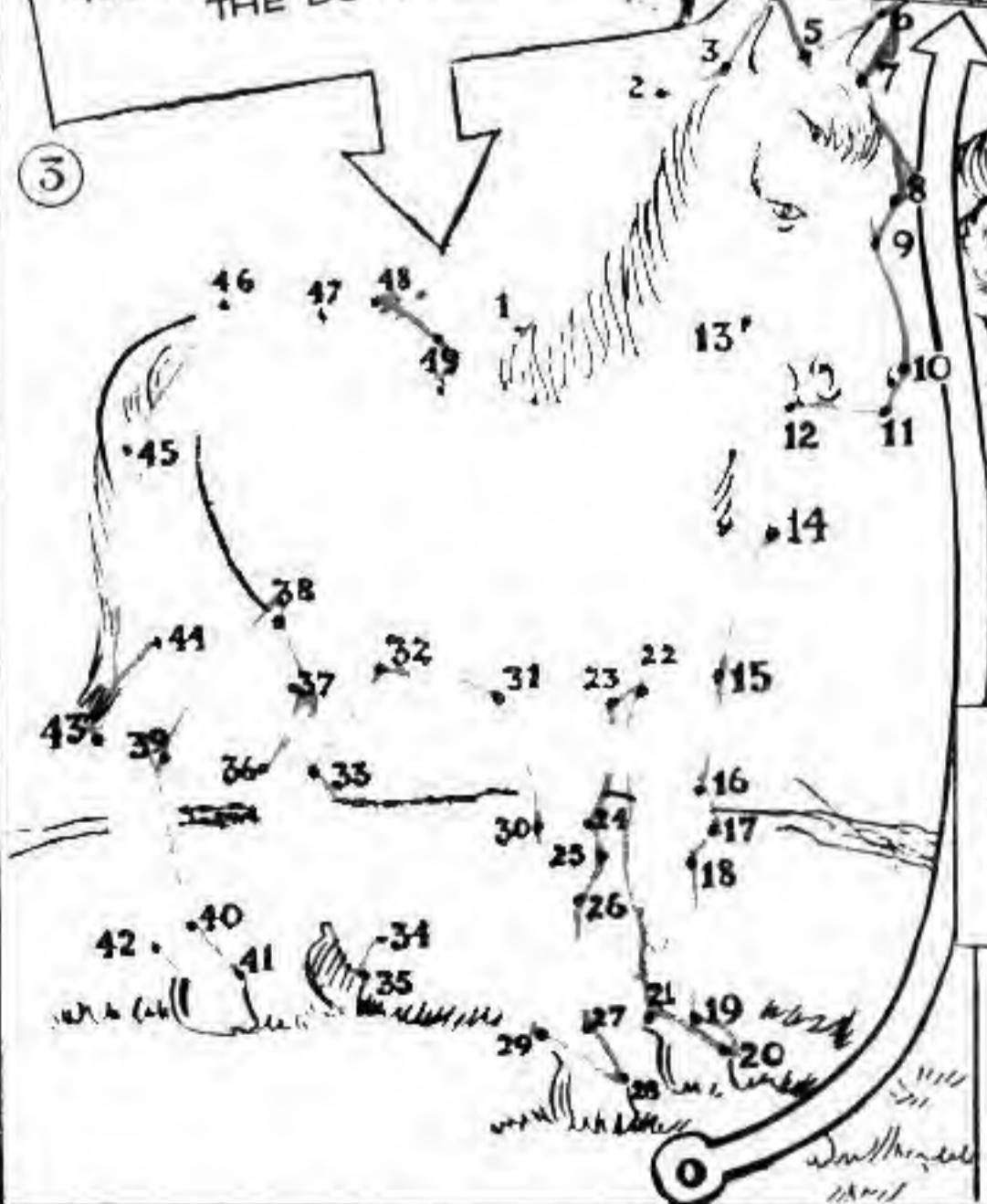
TWO BROTHERS STARTED OUT TO SEEK THEIR FORTUNE, BUT BECAME LOST IN THE MAGICIAN'S MAZE! CAN YOU HELP THEIR YOUNGER BROTHER FIND EACH OF THEM AND LEAD THEM OUT ON THE RIGHT PATH?



DNIF
EHT
LAYOR
DEETS

IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST BEYOND THE MAZE, A STRANGE MESSAGE IS CARVED ON A TREE! SEE IF YOU CAN HELP HIM DECODE IT, THEN DO WHAT IT SAYS BY CONNECTING THE DOTS BELOW!

JUST THEN, THE YOUTH IS SEIZED BY A FIERCE BAND OF GYPSIES! THEY WILL RELEASE HIM IF HE CAN PICK WHICH ARE TWIN BROTHERS! CAN YOU?



DANDELION	HORSE
SNAPDRAGON	DOG
LILY	CAT
SLIPPER	TIGER
WOOD	COW
WILLOW	LION
NIP	DRAGON
CHESTNUT	PUSSY

ON LEAVING THE WITCH'S HOUSE, THE BRAVE YOUTH IS SURROUNDED BY ANIMALS WHO BAR HIS WAY! BY CONNECTING THEIR NAMES WITH THE RIGHT WORDS IN THE COLUMN ON THE LEFT, HE TURNS THEM INTO HARMLESS PLANTS! (ANSWERS BELOW)

- (1) KEEP AT IT! (2) FIND THE ROYAL STEED!
 (3) THE NOBLEST OF BEASTS! (+) 1 AND 5 ARE TWINS!
 (4) DANDELION — SNAPDRAGON — TIGERLILY — COWSLIP —
 (5) DOGWOOD — PUSSYWILLOW — CATNIP — HORSE

PICTURE PESTERS Wonderful Secret

I COULD
DEFEAT YOU
WITH MY BARE
HANDS, BOY!

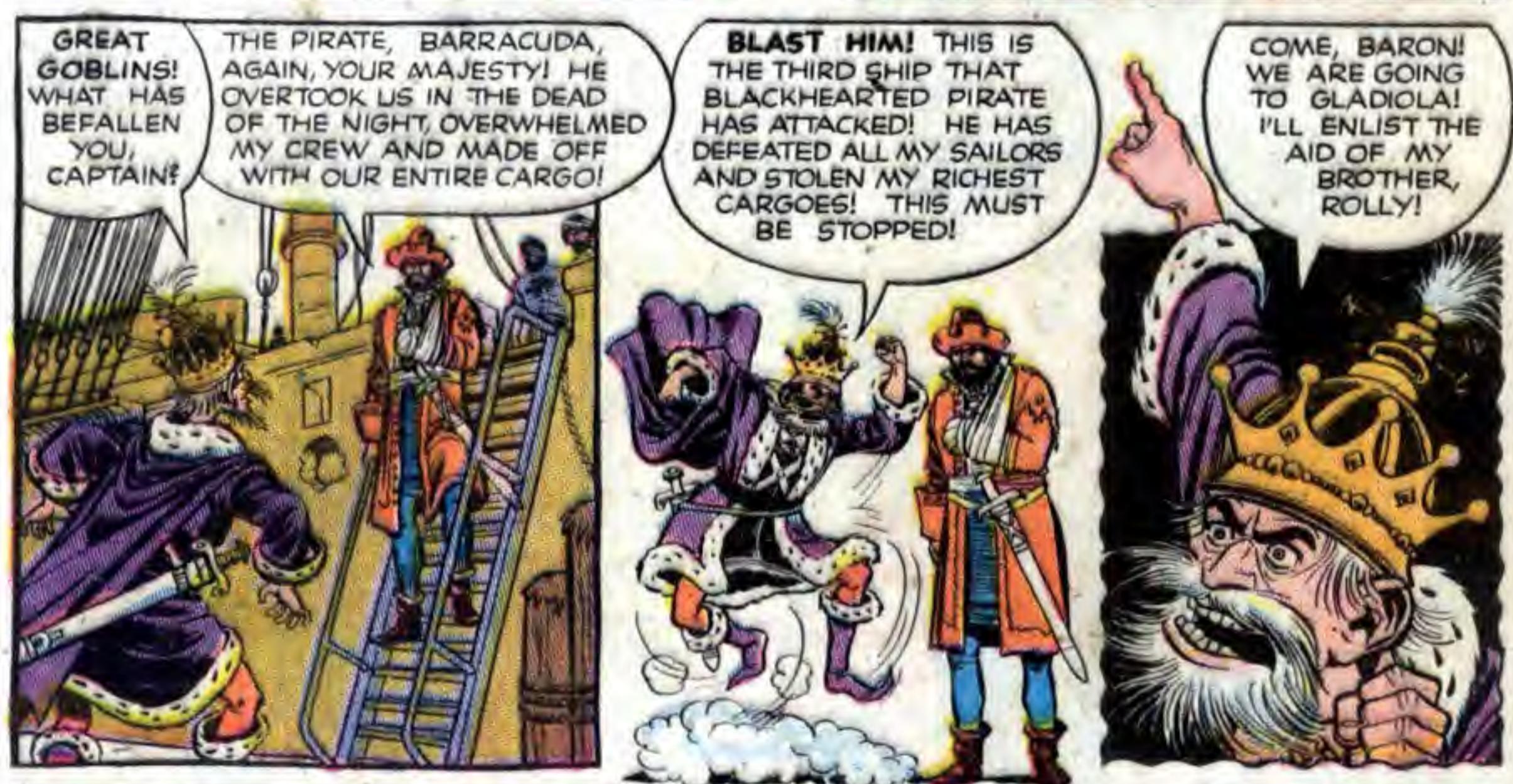
JUST
REMEMBER
THAT THE LOSER
MUST SURRENDER
HIS ENTIRE SHIP,
BARRACUDA!

THE BARRACUDA
IS TALL. HE IS
STRONG. HE IS A
CHAMPION DUELIST.
PETER PESTER IS SMALL.
PETER PESTER IS A BOY.
PETER PESTER IS NOT A
SWORDSMAN.

I GUESS
YOU MEAN
PETER WILL
LOSE!

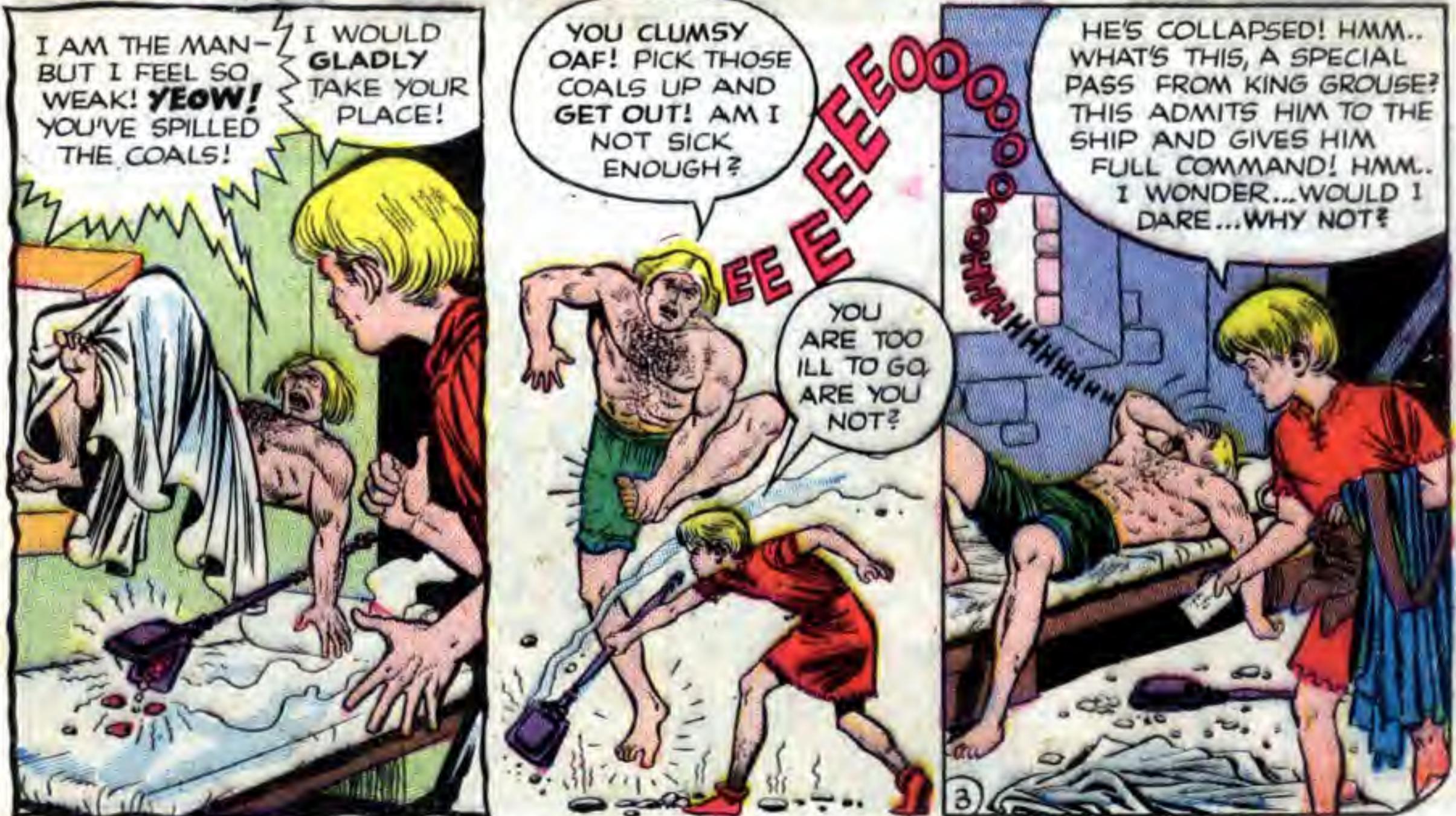
ILLUSTRATED BY
H. Mankin

A cozy corner and a good book will change the dreariest and dullest day into a sunburst of adventure, but no printed words, however beautiful, will ever compare to the stories your mother tells you. Picture her on your bedside in your warm room and hear her lovely voice as she begins the first of these four wonderful stories...





The following morning...









Meanwhile, back at the palace...



A HANDSOME KNIGHT IS IN LOVE WITH ME, AND I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING BEAUTIFUL... BUT UNSIGNED LOVE LETTERS! COULD YOU DISCOVER WHO HE IS?

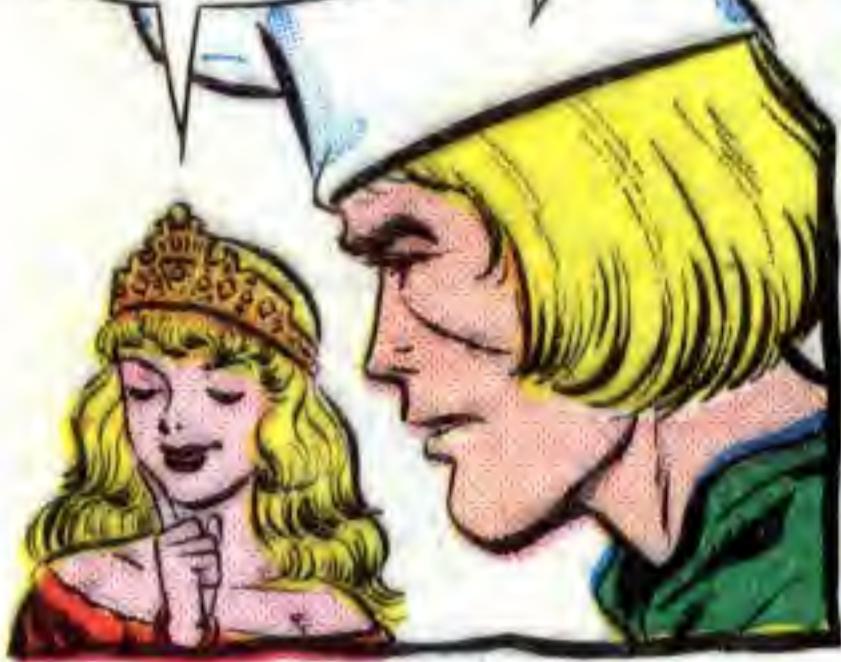
IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER THAT IT IS I...
I WILL DO MY BEST, PRINCESS!

Back aboard the Man-of-War...

IF YOU PROMISE TO OBEY MY ORDERS, CAPTAIN, I WILL HAVE YOUR IRONS REMOVED! DO YOU AGREE?

YOU ARE BUT A BOY, LASAR, BUT YOU HAVE WON OUR RESPECT! I WILL OBEY!

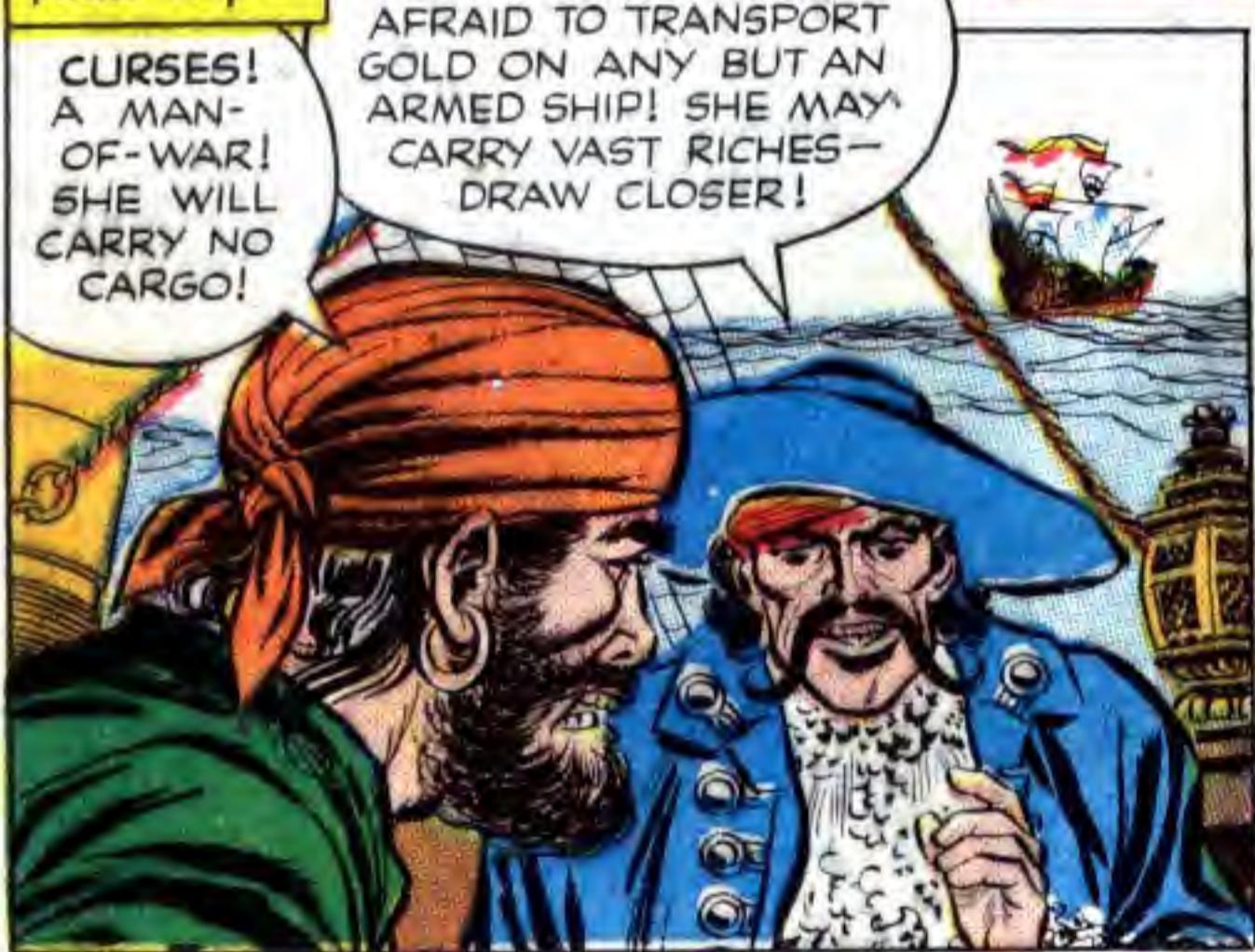
SHIP AHoy! THE CRIMSON DOLPHIN OFF THE PORT BOW!



And, on the pirate ship...

CURSES! A MAN-OF-WAR! SHE WILL CARRY NO CARGO!

YOU ARE WRONG, FOOL! THEY ARE AFRAID TO TRANSPORT GOLD ON ANY BUT AN ARMED SHIP! SHE MAY CARRY VAST RICHES—DRAW CLOSER!



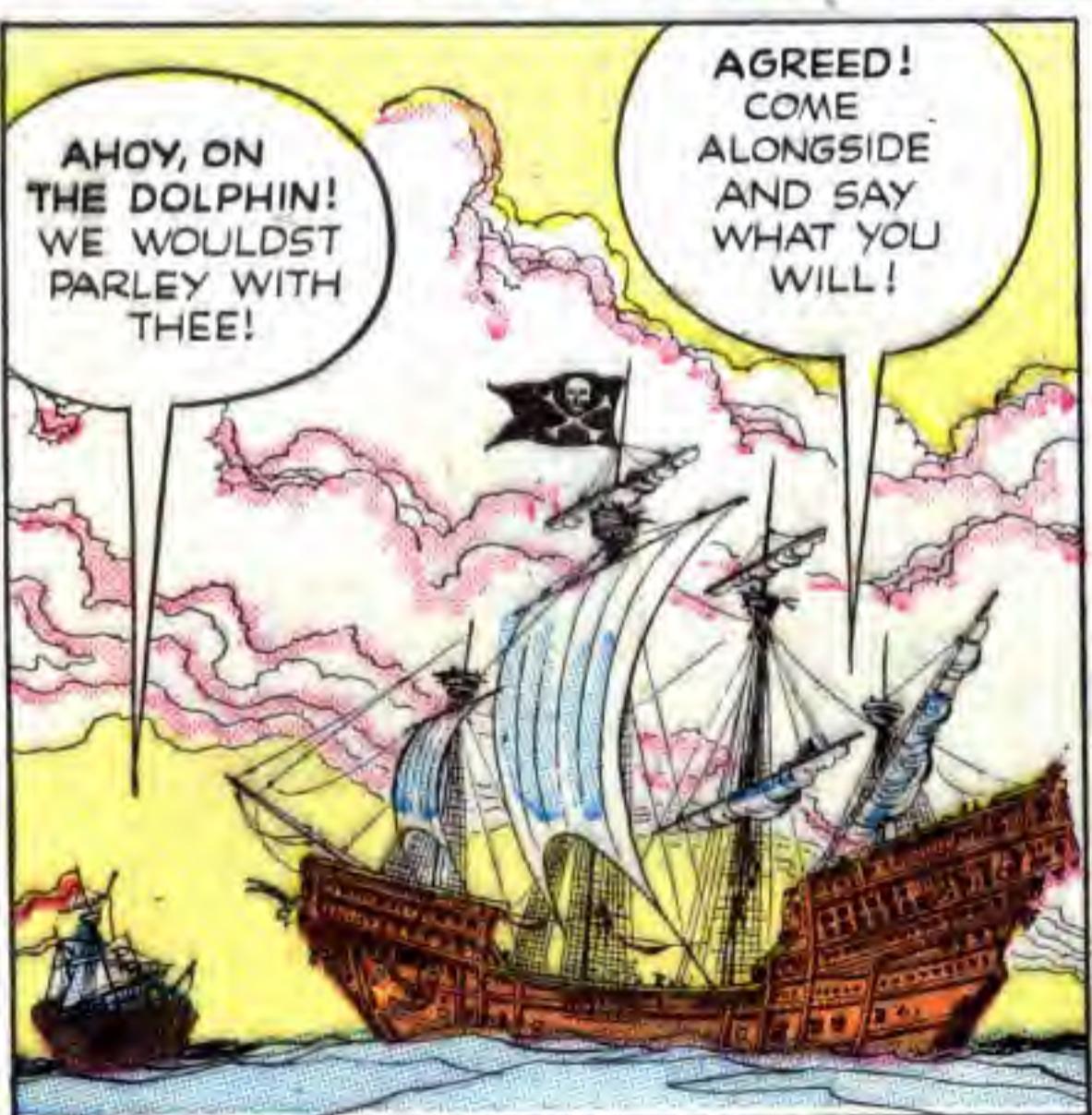
THE MEN ARE READY, LASAR! SHALL I HAVE THEM OPEN FIRE?

NO! WHY SHOULD WE SUFFER EVEN ONE HIT? TAKE THIS MEGAPHONE AND TELL THEM WHAT I SAY!



AHOY, ON THE DOLPHIN! WE WOULDST PARLEY WITH THEE!

AGREED! COME ALONGSIDE AND SAY WHAT YOU WILL!



WE CAN SETTLE THIS WITHOUT BLOODSHED, BARRACUDA! I PROPOSE A DUEL BETWEEN YOU AND ME—THE LOSER TO SURRENDER HIS ENTIRE SHIP! IF YOU AGREE, HAVE YOUR MEN LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS, AND I WILL COME ABOARD!

HA, HA, HA! YOU ARE BUT A BOY! COME, YOU HAVE A FIGHT!





SLASH THE HALYARDS BEFORE THEY CAN GET THEIR FOOTING! AS SOON AS THEY ARE COVERED BY CANVAS, PIN THE SIDES DOWN WITH YOUR SWORDS!

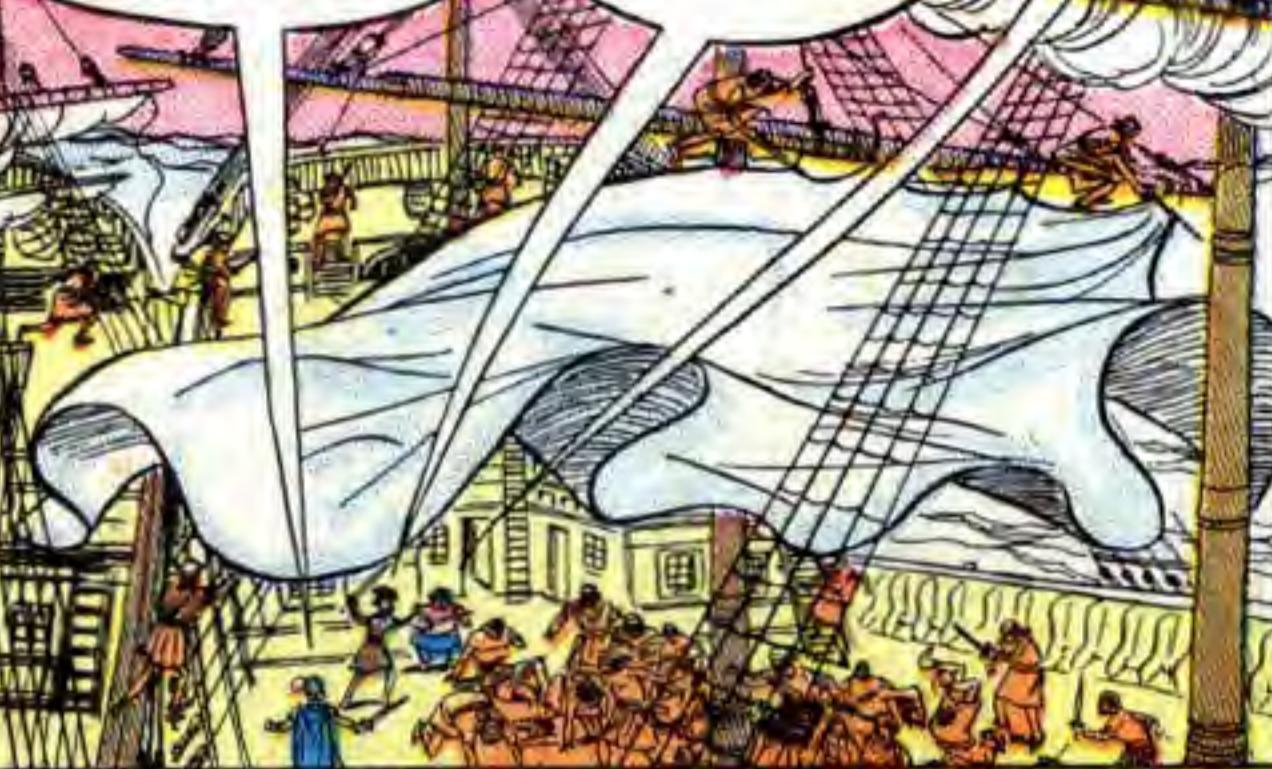
WE KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. WE CAN SEE THE PIRATES. I HAVE A SWORD. I CAN USE IT. I AM COMING. I WILL BE THERE. I WILL CUT THE ROPES!

HE... MEANS... WE WILL... HELP!

GOOD WORK, MEN! IF THEY TRY TO COME OUT, CLUB THEM! NOW LET US SET SAIL FOR HOME!

THIS HAS BEEN A GLORIOUS DAY. THIS HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE. THE KING WILL BE PLEASED. THE PEOPLE WILL CHEER. PETER HAS DONE WELL. THE BARRACUDA IS CAPTURED.

YOU WILL... BE A HERO, PETER!



THERE IS WONDERFUL NEWS! CAPTAIN LASAR'S SHIP HAS BEEN SIGHTED—WITH THE PIRATE SHIP IN TOW! WE ARE LEAVING TO MEET HIM!

I SHALL BE DISGRACED FOR LIFE IF IT IS DISCOVERED THAT I WAS NOT THE MAN WHO DEFEATED THE BARRACUDA! I MUST GET TO PETER BEFORE THE OTHERS...



ALL RIGHT... I SUPPOSE I DID PULL A TRICK ON YOU! BUT, HURRY—I SEE THEM COMING!

WELL DONE, CAPTAIN LASAR! TAKE THE POSITION OF HONOR AT THE HEAD OF THE PROCESSION!

ER... THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!

WHAT ARE YOU SCALLYWAGS DOING HERE? GET AWAY!



IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE, SIR LASAR, TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON—THE HIGHEST HONOR IN THE LAND!

THIS SHOULD BE PETER, NOT I!

THIS IS TOO MUCH! PARADES, MEDALS, AND NOW THE PRINCESS IS SMILING AT HIM! HE DID NOT DO ANYTHING! PETER PESTER SHOULD GET THAT MEDAL! I WILL TELL THEM ALL!

IT WAS PETER WHO CAPTURED THE BARRACUDA, NOT HE—LASAR WAS NOT EVEN THERE!

THIS MUST BE A JOKE! IT IS ABSURD, THROW THOSE BOYS OUT!

HUSH, POKEY! DON'T!

THAT'S NOT TRUE! POKEY SLOW IS LYING!



I BELIEVE POKEY SLOW. YOU KNOW YOU ARE A HERO...AND THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS!

I SUPPOSE YOU ARE RIGHT! COME, LET US GO BACK TO THE BAKERY!

PRINCESS, AS I PROMISED AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU WILL THINK OF ME, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE WRITER OF THE LOVE LETTERS—MYSELF!

YOU WERE THE MAN IN THE BAKERY! BUT THEN YOU COULD NOT HAVE BEEN OFF SEEKING THE BARRACUDA!

I FELL ILL THE DAY I WAS TO LEAVE AND PETER TOOK MY PLACE! I COULDN'T TELL KING ROLLY FOR FEAR THAT WE BOTH WOULD BE PUNISHED!

YOUR LETTERS PROVED TO ME THAT YOU ARE AN HONORABLE MAN!



The End

IF PENELOPE'S FATHER HAD NOT INSISTED, HER STEPMOTHER WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED HER TO GO TO THE SAINT VALENTINE'S BALL!

RIVER FLOWING BY MY WINDOW...SWIFTLY TO THE SEA...WINDS A-BLOWING 'CROSS THE HILL LANDS BRING MY LOVE TO ME...

PENELOPE! STOP SINGING THAT STUPID SONG OF YOURS AND HURRY ALONG!

the PRINCE and PENELOPE

Long long ago, in the days of carriages and castles, there lived a beautiful and kind girl named Penelope. She was always thoughtful of others and sought nothing for herself. I will tell you now of the rather sad and strange way in which her goodness was rewarded.

IN MY OPINION, YOU ARE MUCH TOO YOUNG TO BE ATTENDING THIS BALL, PENELOPE!

NONSENSE! THERE WILL BE MANY HER OWN AGE THERE! YOU JUST WANT PENELOPE OUT OF SIGHT! YOU WANT TO MARRY OFF CHARLOTTE FIRST, BECAUSE SHE IS A YEAR OLDER, AS IF THAT MATTERED!

CHARLOTTE, TONIGHT AT THE SAINT VALENTINE DANCE, JUST REMEMBER WHEN THE MUSIC GETS NEAR THE END, AND THE BOUQUET IS PASSED AROUND THE CIRCLE TO YOU, DELIBERATELY KEEP HOLDING IT! DON'T FORGET, IF YOU WIN, IT MEANS YOU WILL BE FIRST TO MARRY!

BUT MOTHER, THAT'S BUT A SUPERSTITION!

CHARLOTTE, YOU RUN ALONG AND JOIN THE OTHERS! AS FOR YOU, PENELOPE, YOU SHALL STAY WITH ME AND WATCH THE DANCING!

AND NOW, THE VALENTINE DANCE! LET ALL THE UNWED GIRLS COME FORWARD AND FORM A CIRCLE!

THIS DANCE IS NOT FOR YOU, PENELOPE! SIT DOWN! YOU MAY JOIN NEXT YEAR WHEN YOU ARE OLDER!

RIDICULOUS! LET HER BE IN IT, AUGUSTA!



PASS IT ON!
CHARLOTTE—NO FAIR HOLDING IT SO LONG! BOO—
YOU'RE A BAD SPORT!

WHY DOESN'T THE MUSIC STOP? WHY? WHY? I DARE NOT HOLD IT ANY LONGER!
ALREADY THOSE WATCHING ARE GRUMBLING!



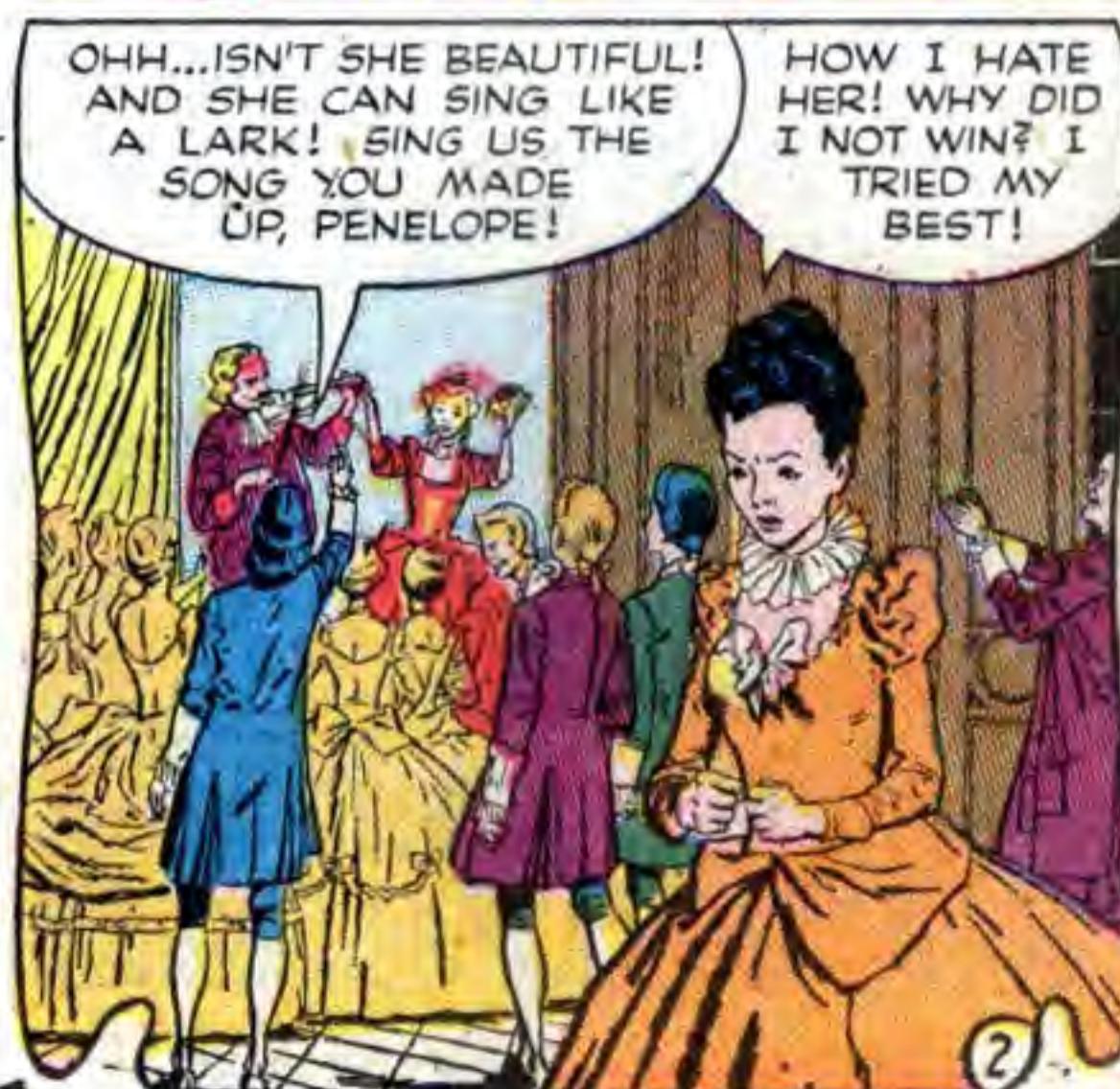
OHHH...THE MUSIC'S STOPPED! YOU WON! YOU WON! YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO BE MARRIED!

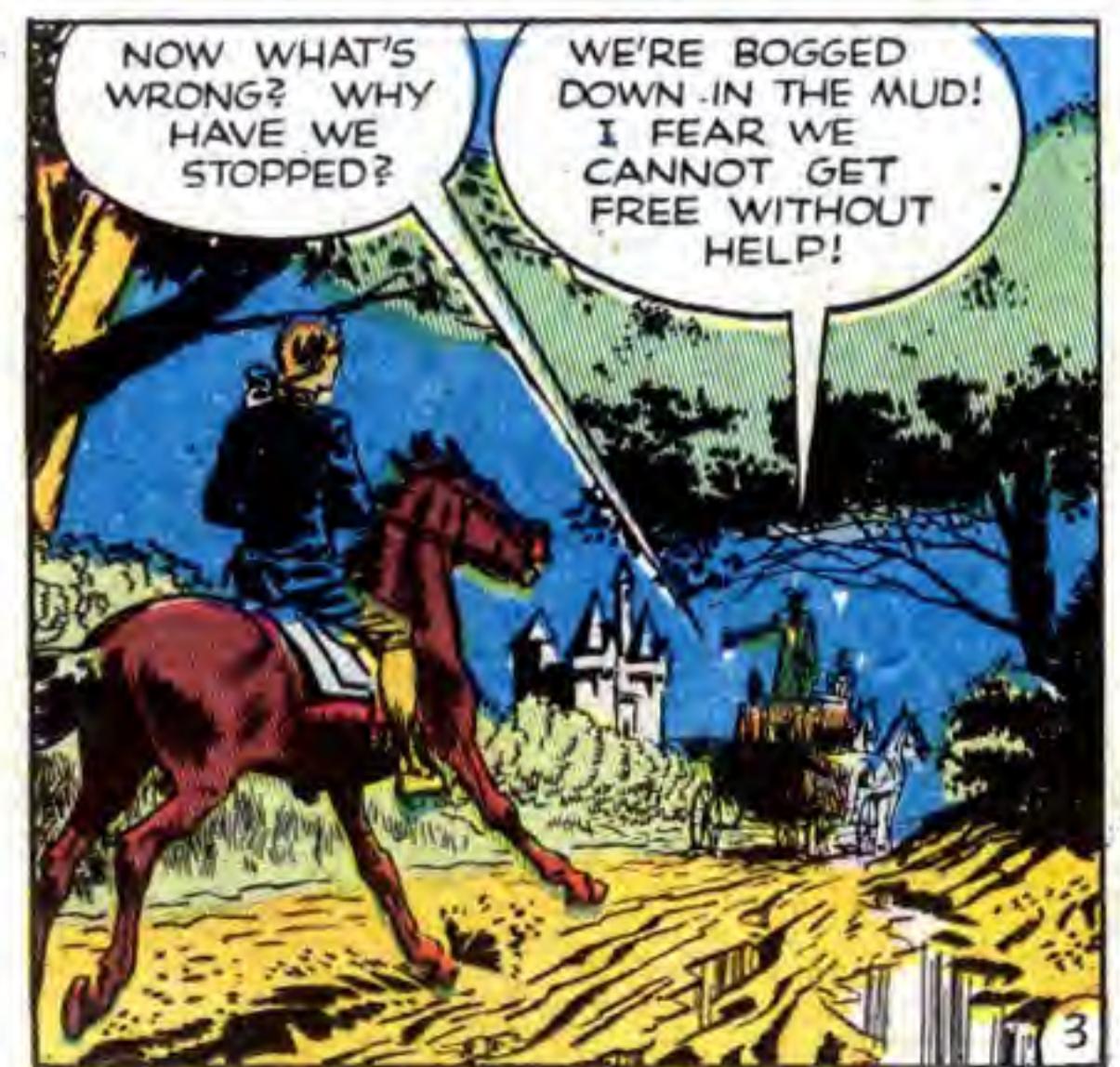
LUCKY PENELOPE!

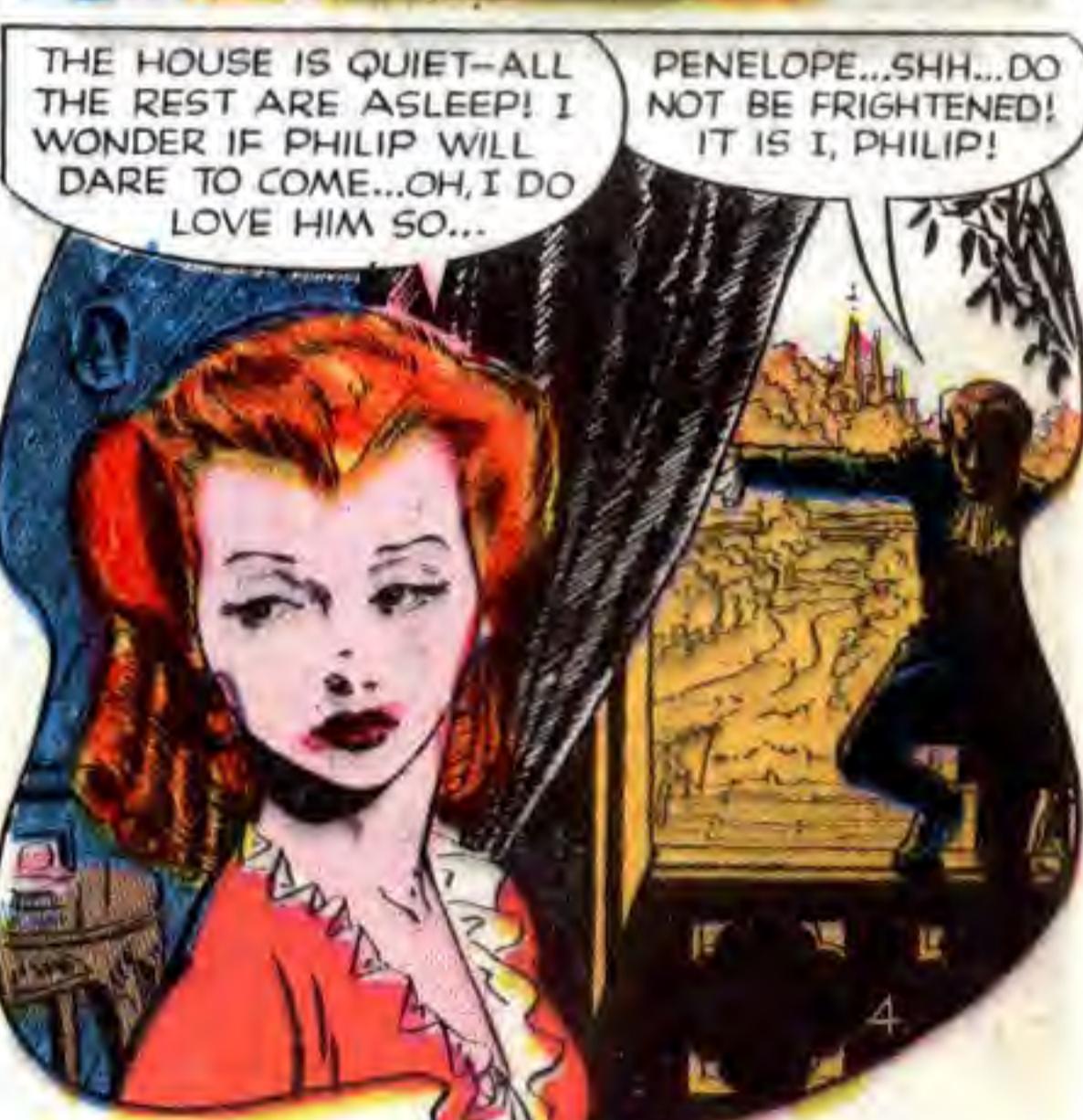
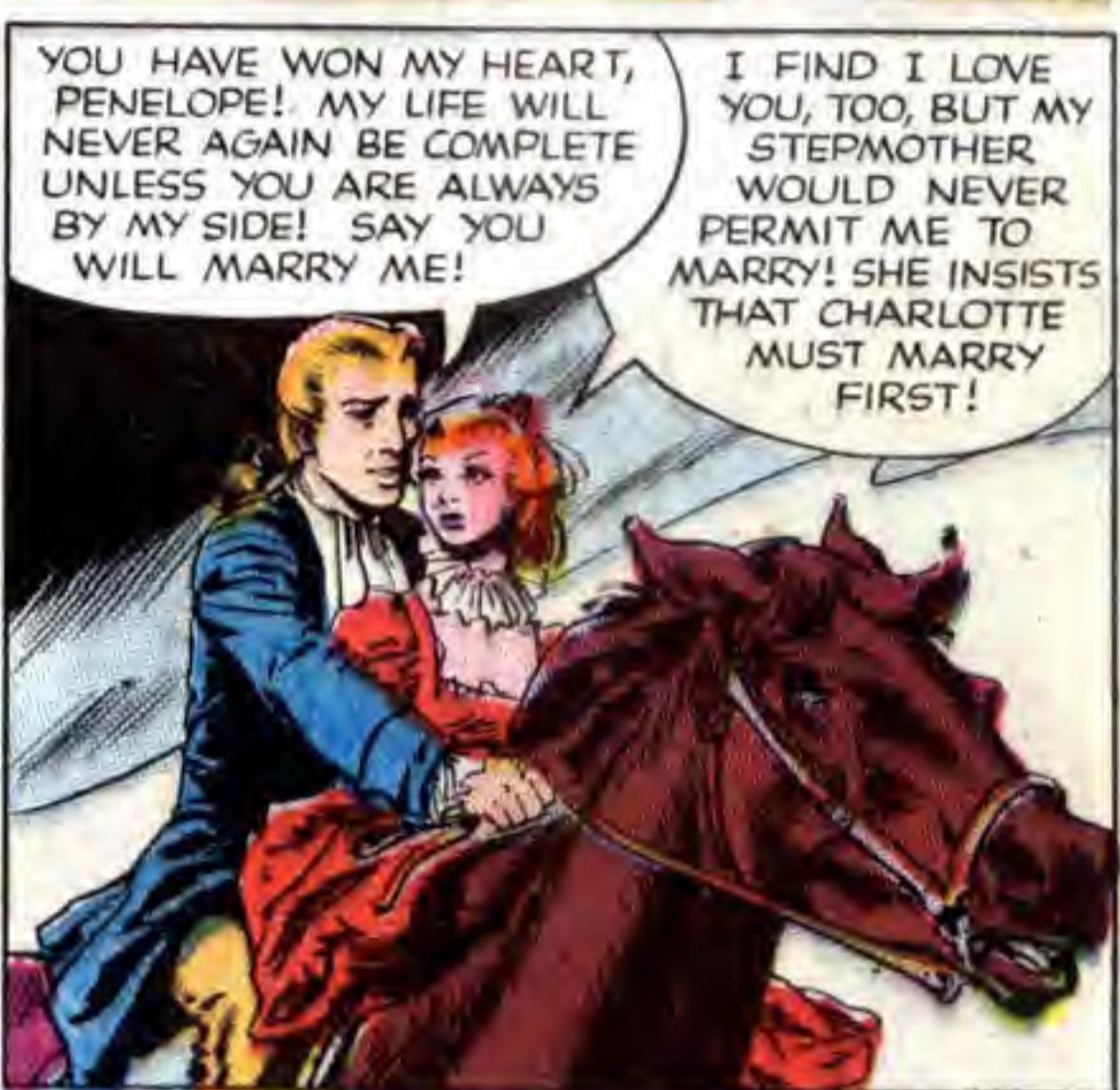
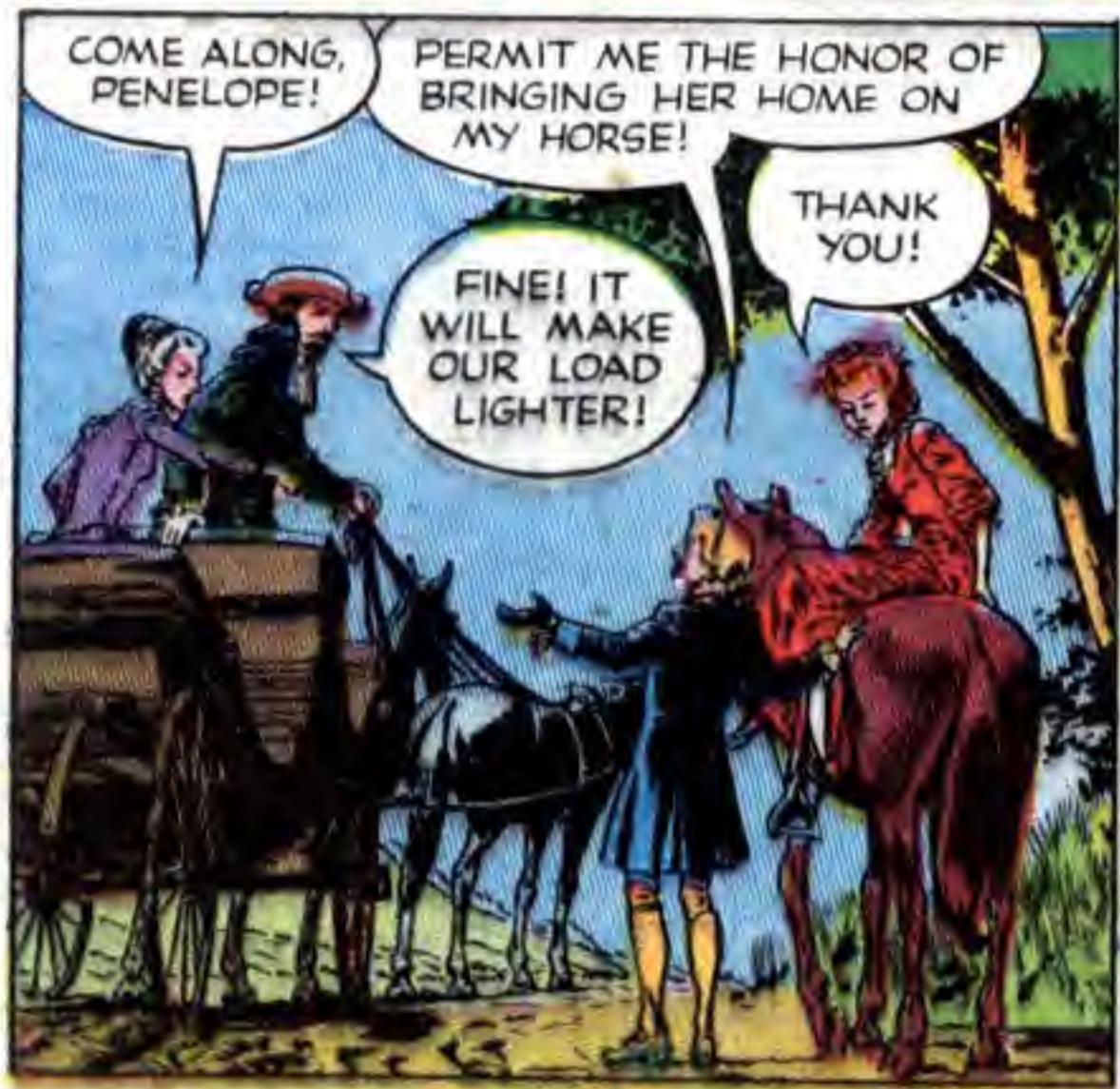


OHH...ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL!
AND SHE CAN SING LIKE A LARK!
SING US THE SONG YOU MADE UP, PENELOPE!

HOW I HATE HER! WHY DID I NOT WIN?
I TRIED MY BEST!







PENELOPE, DEAREST,
LET US ELOPE! I
AM PRINCE PHILIP,
NEXT HEIR TO
THE THRONE! MARRY
ME AND SOME
DAY YOU WILL
BE QUEEN!

I CARE NOT
WHAT YOUR TITLE
IS! 'TIS YOU I LOVE!
BUT PHILIP, HOW
CAN I ELOPE WITH
YOU? WHAT IF SHE
LEARNED OF OUR
PLANS?

SHE WILL NOT! WE WILL ELOPE TO-
NIGHT! SEE THAT BIG OAK YONDER?
MEET ME THERE AT MIDNIGHT! TO-
GETHER WE SHALL RIDE TO MY
FATHER'S PALACE
AND BE MARRIED!

YES - BUT
GO NOW AND
BE CAREFUL
YOU DO NOT
FALL INTO THE
RIVER BELOW!

A
PRINCE,
IS HE?

PENELOPE WILL NOT ELOPE! I'LL FIX HER!
FIRST I MUST SET BACK THE CLOCKS SO
SHE WILL NOT KNOW WHEN MIDNIGHT
COMES! MY FULL DAUGHTER, CHARLOTTE,
SHALL TAKE HER PLACE!

DRESSED AND VEILED AS YOU ARE, HE WILL
NOT KNOW YOU FROM PENELOPE! NOW GO!
HE'LL BE WAITING UNDER THE BIG OAK
TREE! KEEP YOUR FACE COVERED TILL YOU
REACH THE PALACE! ONCE YOU ARE HIS
BRIDE, I WILL BE THE
MOTHER OF A QUEEN!

BELOVED! NO ONE CAN
STOP US NOW! WE WILL
REACH THE PALACE BE-
FORE DAWN! DEAR PENELOPE,
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?
DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED!

HE STILL DOES
NOT KNOW I
AM NOT
PENELOPE!

IT IS NEARLY
TWELVE!
I WOULD
DARE ALL FOR
PHILIP!

THERE SHE GOES! WHAT
A SORRY SURPRISE WHEN
HER PRINCE FAILS TO
APPEAR! THIS WILL BREAK
HER WILFUL SPIRIT!



A FULL HOUR I WAITED AND HE HAS NOT APPEARED! OH, HOW COULD HE PLAY SO CRUEL A JOKE ON ME!

OH-HO...SO THERE YOU ARE, YOU FOOLISH STUPID GIRL! YOU THOUGHT THE PRINCE LOVED YOU, BUT IT WAS CHARLOTTE'S HAND HE TRULY SOUGHT! THIS VERY MOMENT THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE KING'S PALACE TO RECEIVE HIS BLESSINGS!

At that moment, Philip unveils Charlotte...

NOW LET ME REMOVE YOUR VEIL SO THAT I MAY KISS...WHAT? YOU ARE NOT PENELOPE! YOU ARE HER GREEDY SISTER!

STOP! HOW DARE YOU LEAVE ME HERE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BACK TO PENELOPE, YOU WRETCHED SPITEFUL CREATURE!

Penelope's tortured mind plays a cruel trick on her!

IT IS YOU I LOVE, PENELOPE...ONLY YOU...ELOPE WITH ME!* ELOPE...COME, MAKE HASTE TO FOLLOW ME!

OH, YES, PHILIP, I'LL COME...WAIT!

PENELOPE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU WILL FALL INTO THE RIVER!

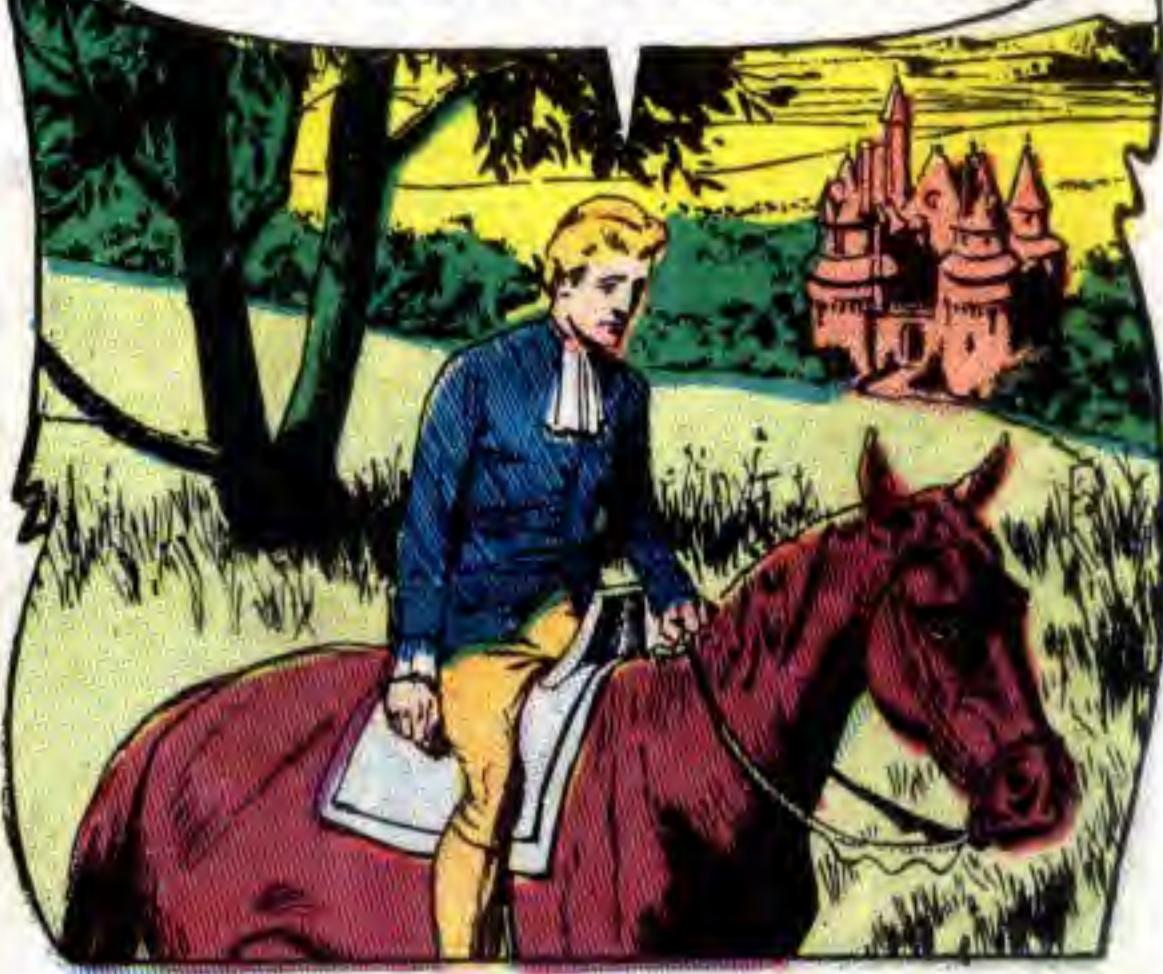
OH, PENELOPE!

WHERE
IS SHE?
WHERE IS
PENELOPE?

ALAS, SHE IS GONE FOREVER!
SHE WALKED IN HER SLEEP
AND FELL FROM THE BALCONY
INTO THE RIVER! IN THE
DARKNESS NO ONE
COULD SAVE HER!



PENELOPE DEAD! I CANNOT BELIEVE
IT! HER FAIR FACE WILL LIVE FOREVER
IN MY HEART! IF THIS BE TRUE—
THEN NEVER SHALL I MARRY!

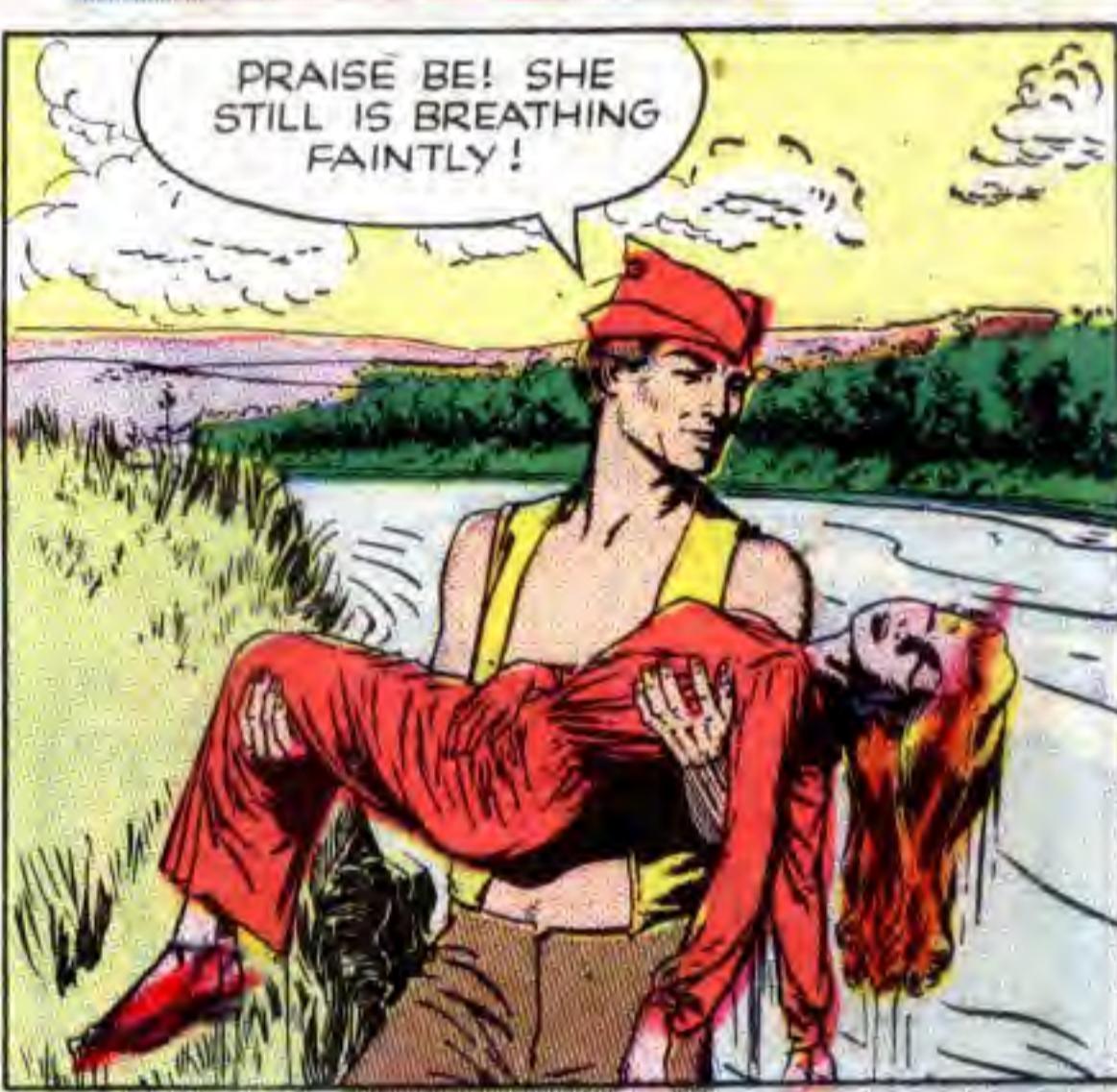


Meanwhile, only just a short distance down-stream...

WHAT FLOATS OUT YONDER
IN THE RIVER? THE
BODY OF A GIRL!



PRAISE BE! SHE
STILL IS BREATHING
FAINTLY!



NO, I WILL NOT
TELL YOU MY
TRUE NAME—
;SOB; ;SOB;
ANYTHING OF
MY PAST!

FEAR NOT, FAIR
LADY! I SHALL
CARE FOR YOU!
MY NAME IS
JOHN!



As the days went by, Penelope grew
fond of John...

I OWE MY LIFE
TO YOU, JOHN!

I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE FOR
YOU, DEAR ONE! I LOVE AND
ADORE YOU! DARE I ASK
THAT YOU BE MY BRIDE?

GLADLY
WILL I BE
YOURS!



Ten long years later, and upon his father's death, Philip becomes king...

'TIS A PITY THAT A KING SO GOOD SHOULD BE SO SORROWFUL! THEY SAY HE HAS NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE GRIEF OF LOSING THE FAIR PENELOPE!

TRUE, HE FINDS HIS ONLY SOLACE REVISITING THE PLACE WHERE THEY LAST PARTED AND RELIVING HIS MEMORIES OF HER!

PENELOPE...PENELOPE...HOW DIFFERENT MY LIFE MIGHT BE IF YOU WERE ALIVE TO SHARE IT WITH ME! HARK! WHAT IS THAT MELODY I HEAR? CAN MY MIND BE PLAYING TRICKS?

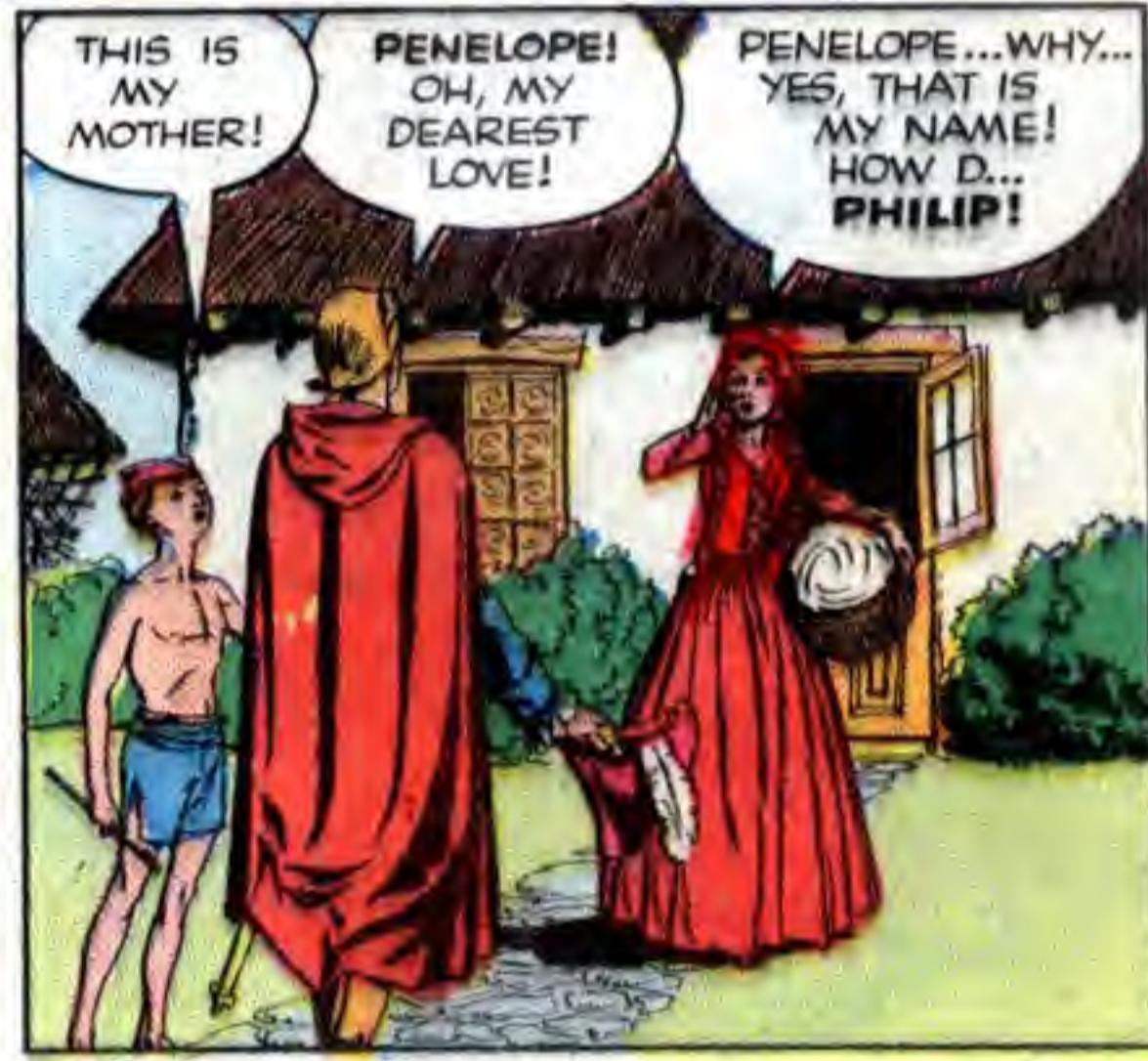
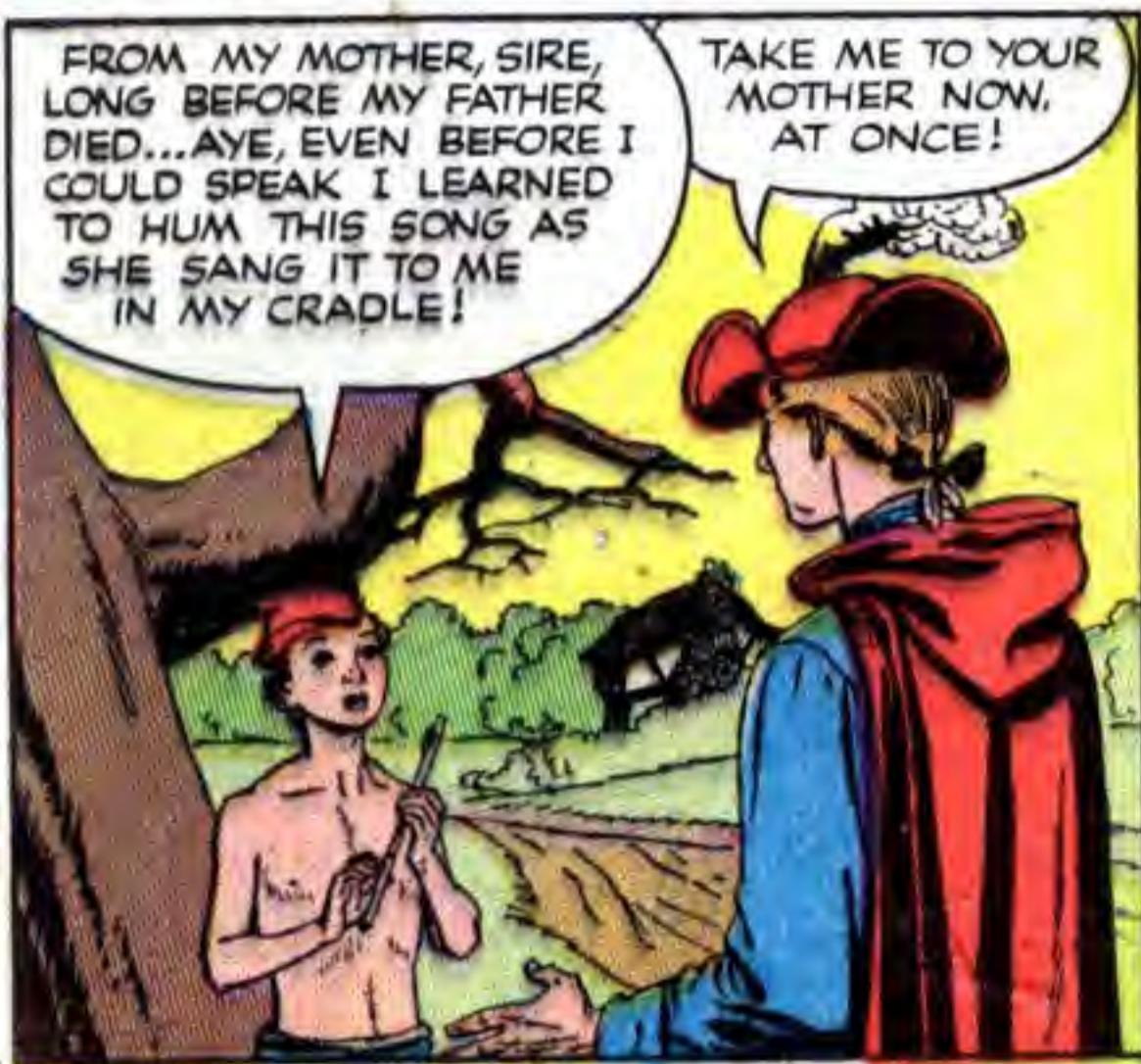
IT IS AS IF I WERE HEARING PENELOPE'S VOICE...NEVER BUT FROM HER LIPS DID I EVER HEAR THAT SONG! HOW CAN IT BE? WHERE WOULD THIS LITTLE SHEPHERD BOY LEARN SUCH A SONG?

WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT MELODY, MY LAD?



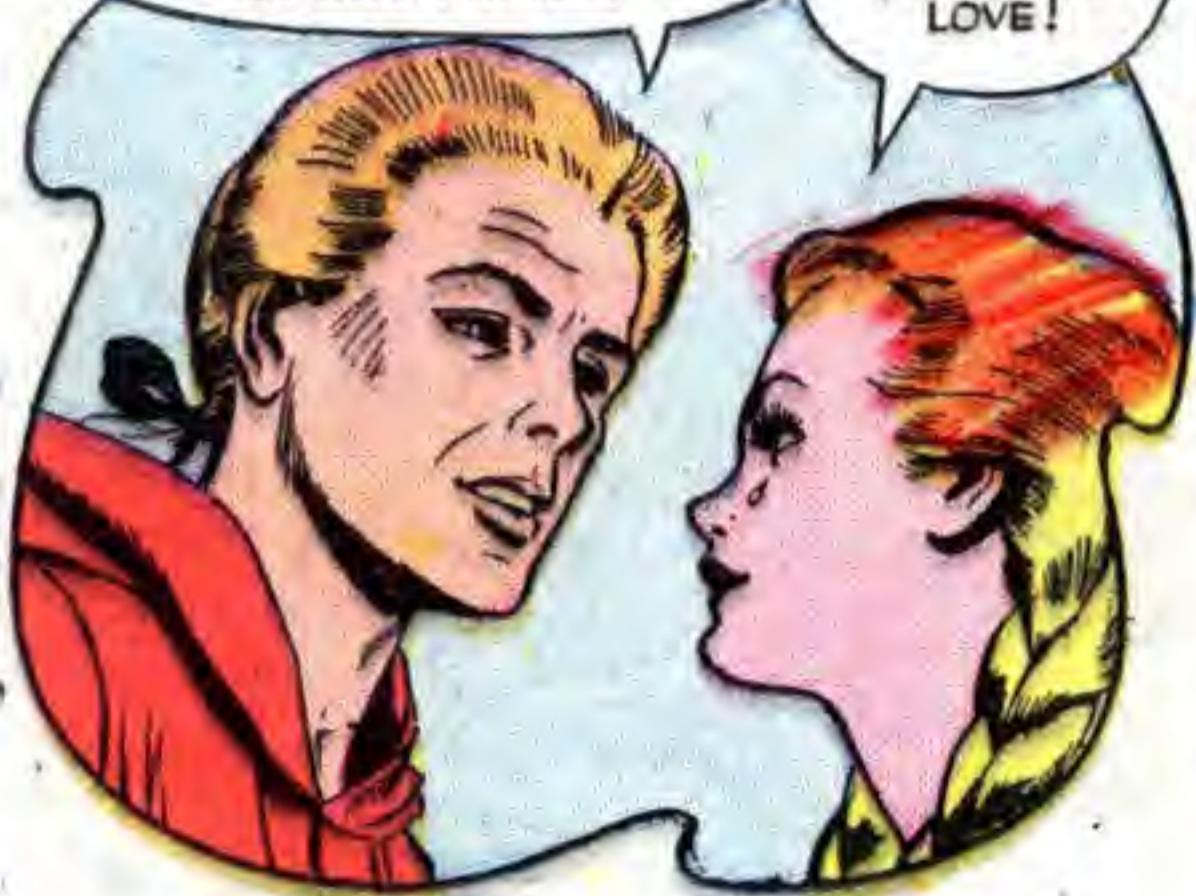
FROM MY MOTHER, SIRE, LONG BEFORE MY FATHER DIED...AYE, EVEN BEFORE I COULD SPEAK I LEARNED TO HUM THIS SONG AS SHE SANG IT TO ME IN MY CRADLE!

TAKE ME TO YOUR MOTHER NOW, AT ONCE!



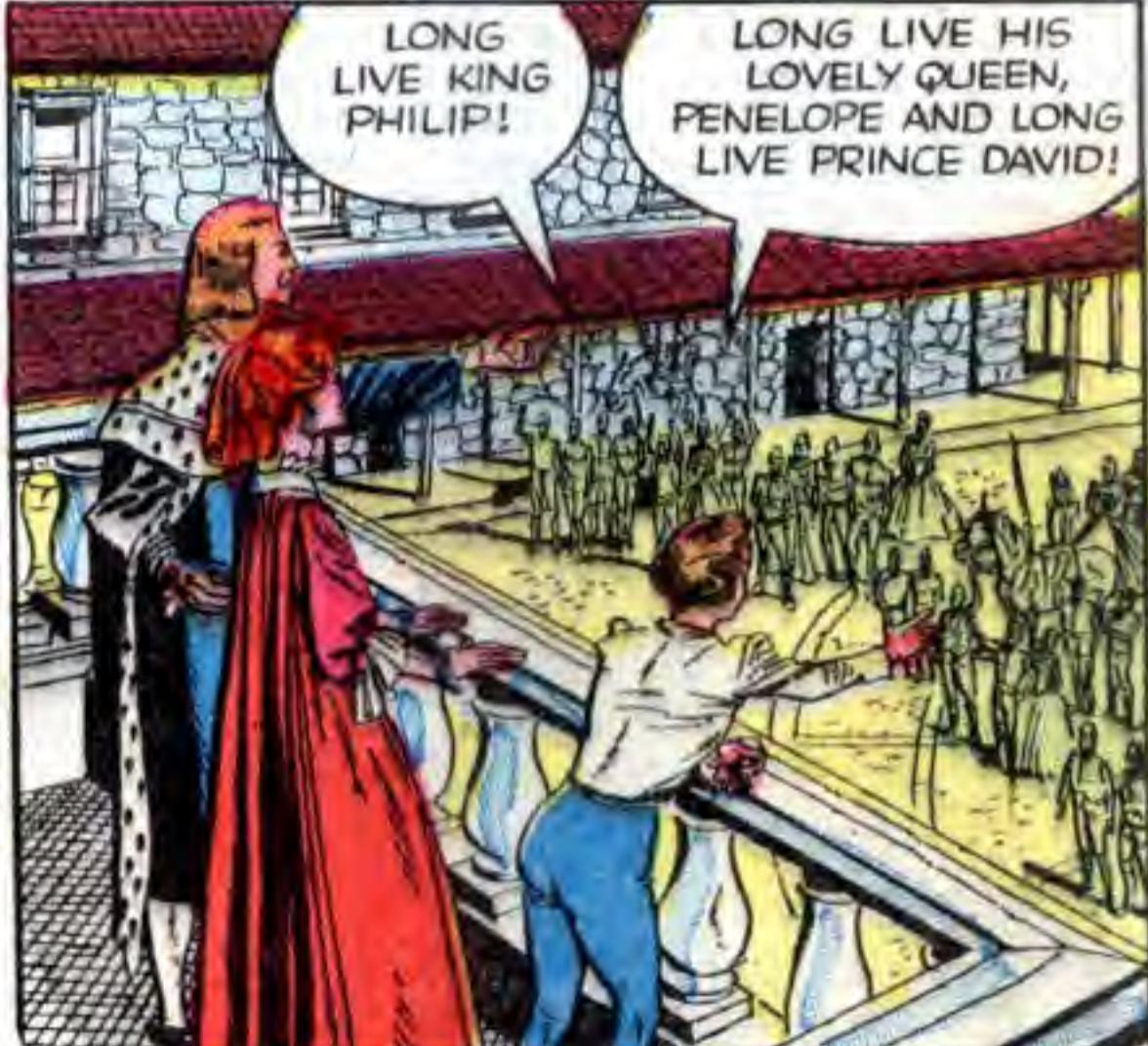
YOUR WICKED HALF-SISTER TRICKED US BY PRETENDING TO BE YOU! I HASTENED BACK ONLY TO FIND YOU HAD DROWNED! OH, DEAR PENELOPE, LET US BE WED AT ONCE! YOU SHALL BE MY QUEEN AND YOUR SON SHALL BE OUR PRINCE!

YES, YES, PHILIP, MY LOVE!



LONG LIVE KING PHILIP!

LONG LIVE HIS LOVELY QUEEN, PENELOPE AND LONG LIVE PRINCE DAVID!



And they lived in joy ever after...so ends the bitter sweet tale of Philip and Penelope.

By Order of King Alfred
Any and all black cats
must be destroyed. It
shall be considered a
crime for any citizen to
own or shelter a black
cat. Anyone found
guilty of such an act
shall be banished
forever from the
kingdom!

signed,
King Alfred



THE KING
MUST INDEED BE
DAFT! LAST WEEK
HE BANNED LADDERS
BECAUSE IT IS BAD
LUCK TO WALK UNDER
ONE AND SO NOW MY
POOR HUSBAND, A
CARPENTER BY TRADE,
IS OUT OF
WORK!

WHAT OF
HIS ORDER
FORBIDDING ANY-
ONE TO EAT SALT
SIMPLY BECAUSE
HE FEARS SOMEONE
MAY SPILL IT? BAH!
I FEAR OUR KING
IS A SUPERSTITIOUS
FOOL!

The Lucky Black Cat

Once upon a time, in a
far off land, there lived a
king whose mind was
filled with many fears—of
rabbits' feet and broken
mirrors; of ladders and
spilled salt. His kingdom
was poor and he had little
to treasure but his lovely
daughter, the Princess
Margaret ...

DO NOT WORRY, KING FATHER! I'M SURE THAT WHEN I DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE TO KING JAMES HE WILL LEND OUR COUNTRY 50,000 GOLD PIECES! AFTER ALL, HE IS YOUR COUSIN!

IF HE SHOULD REFUSE, OUR COUNTRY WOULD FACE RUIN! BE CAREFUL! I WILL RUB MY RABBIT'S FOOT SO NO MISFORTUNE WILL BEFALL YOU!



THERE GOES THE FAIR PRINCESS MARGARET! I HOPE SHE DOES NOT INHERIT HER FATHER'S SUPERSTITIONS!

HAVE YOU HEARD? HE HAS NOW DECREED THAT ALL BLACK CATS MUST BE DESTROYED!

MERCY! I MUST TELL POOR MRS. CRUMPT! SHE HAS ONE!



I'M OFF TO DO MY MARKETING! COME, SABER, I'LL TAKE YOU ALONG! 'TIS A FINE SUNNY DAY AND THE FISH MAN MAY HAVE A TIDBIT FOR YOU!



OH, MRS. CRUMPET, HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE BAD NEWS? THE KING HAS ORDERED THAT.. THAT.. ALL BLACK CATS BE KILLED!

MAKE HASTE AND HIDE SABER, BEFORE SOME BUSYBODY REPORTS YOU!

OH, OH! THEY COULD NOT TAKE SABER FROM ME! I HAVE RAISED HIM FROM A WEE LITTLE KITTEN!



WHAT SHALL I DO? YOU ARE ALL I HAVE! OH, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN KEEP YOU SAFE! AH.. I HAVE IT!

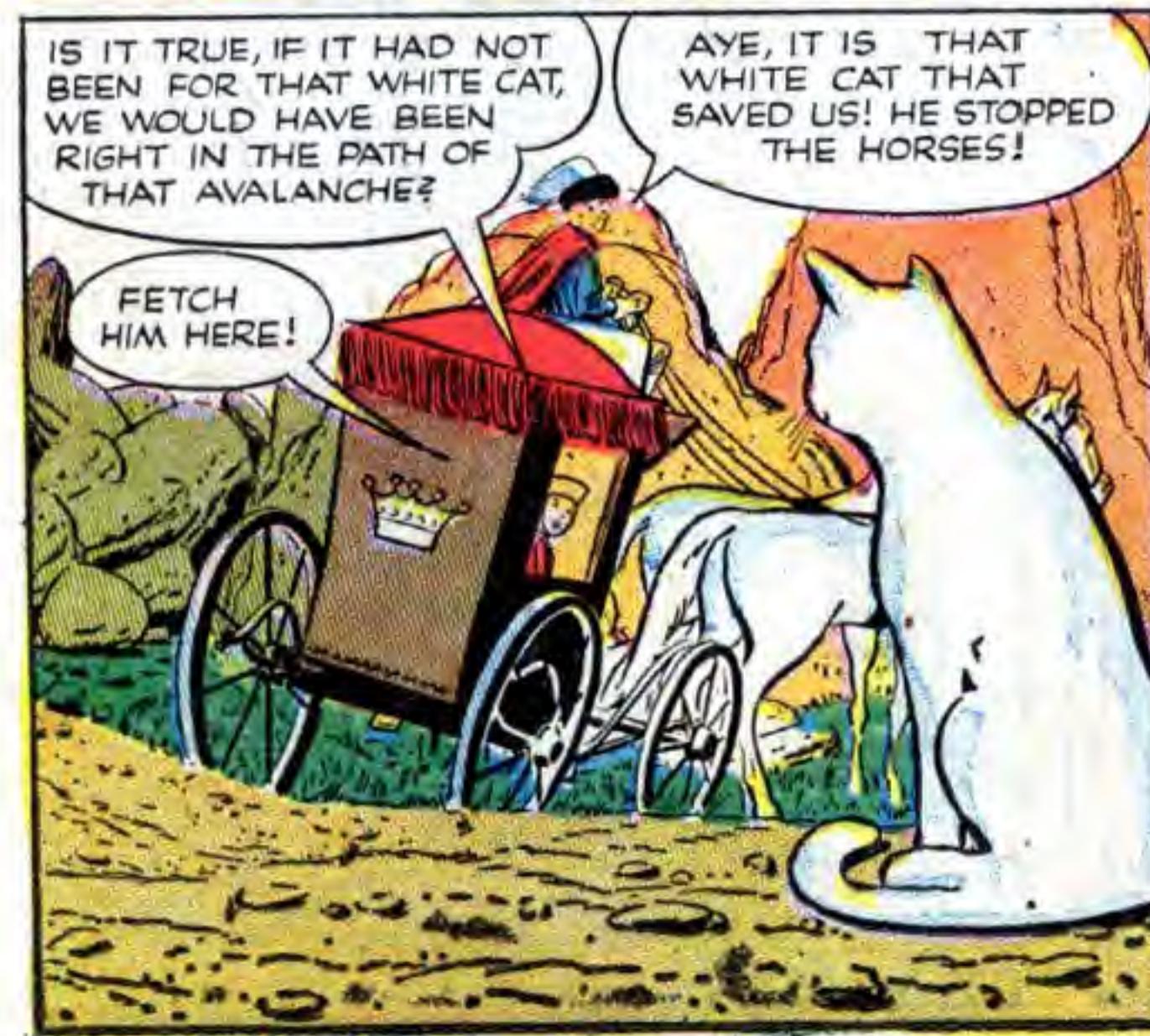


THERE, NOW, SABER... I KNOW HOW YOU HATE TO BE WET, BUT I AM DOING THIS TO SAVE YOUR LIFE! PLEASE DO NOT BE ANGRY!



OHH...WHATEVER WILL HE THINK OF ME FOR DOUSING HIM IN WHITEWASH!





AND HERE IS THE CAT THAT SAVED MY LIFE, FATHER! IS HE NOT A BEAUTY?

HE IS LUCKY! HENCEFORTH, HE SHALL HAVE THE RUN OF THE PALACE! I SHALL APPOINT A SPECIAL COOK TO PREPARE HIS MEALS AND A GARDENER TO PLANT A SPECIAL GARDEN OF CATNIP!

AND NOW, DEAR CHILD, WHAT OF THE LOAN? WHAT DID KING JAMES SAY?

HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIS MINISTER OF FINANCE BUT THAT HE WOULD ADVISE YOU BY COURIER AS SOON AS HE HAS DECIDED!

A few days later...

KING ARNOLD OF STROMBOLIA WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT THE LOAN OF 50,000 GOLD PIECES HAS BEEN APPROVED AND IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY!

SPLENDID! SPLENDID!

'TIS YOU WHO ARE THE CAUSE OF MY GOOD FORTUNE! EVER SINCE YOU ENTERED THE PALACE ALL HAS BEEN WELL! AH...WHAT'S THIS? YOUR WHITE COAT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK SOILED!

PREPARE A BATH FOR MY ROYAL CAT! SCENT IT WITH PERFUME...AND STEW IT WITH ROSE PETALS! AND WHEN YOU BATHE HIM, DO IT WITH CARE! RE-MEMBER, HE IS A ROYAL CAT!

OH, YES, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE WILL BE MOST CAREFUL!

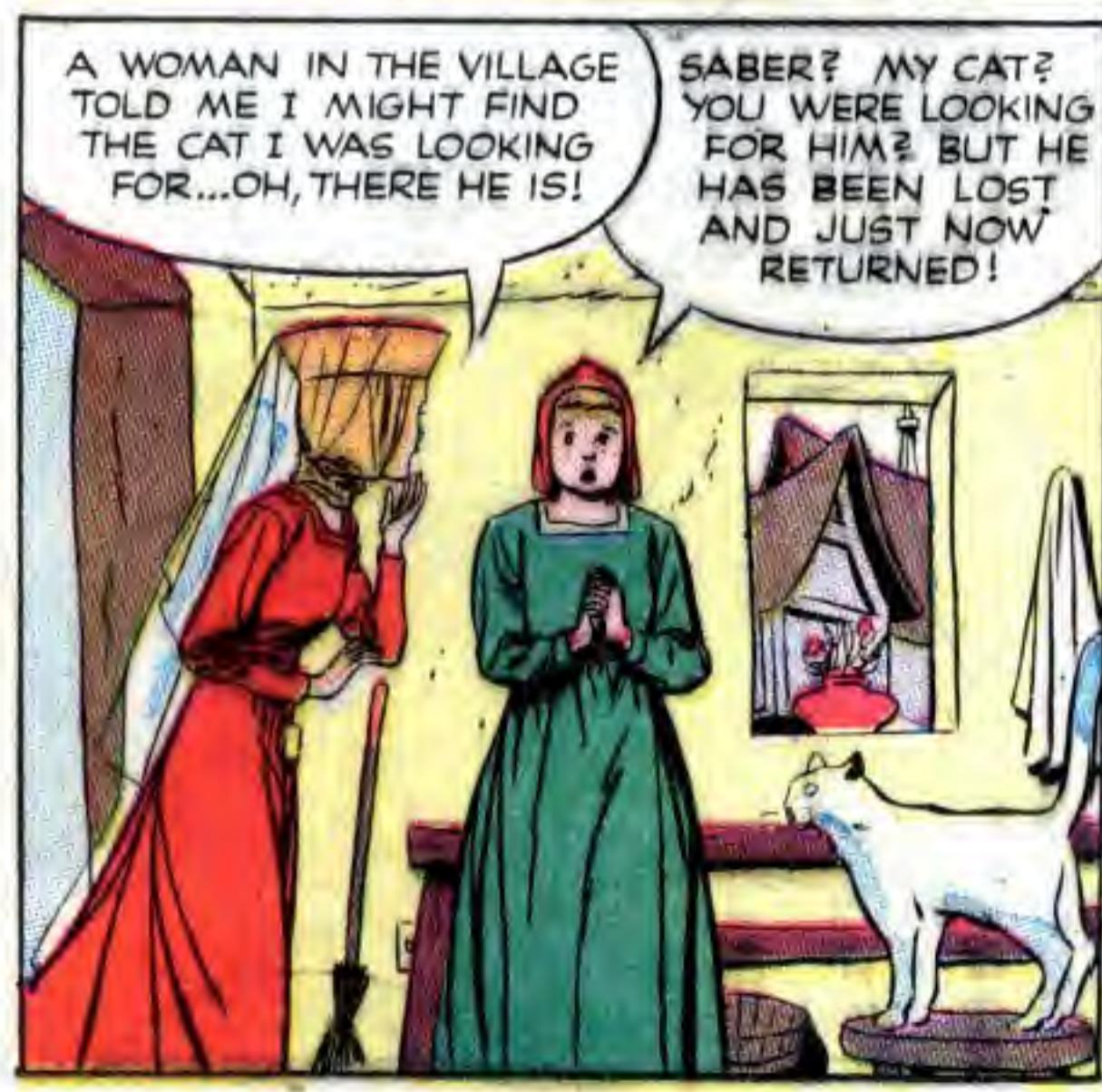
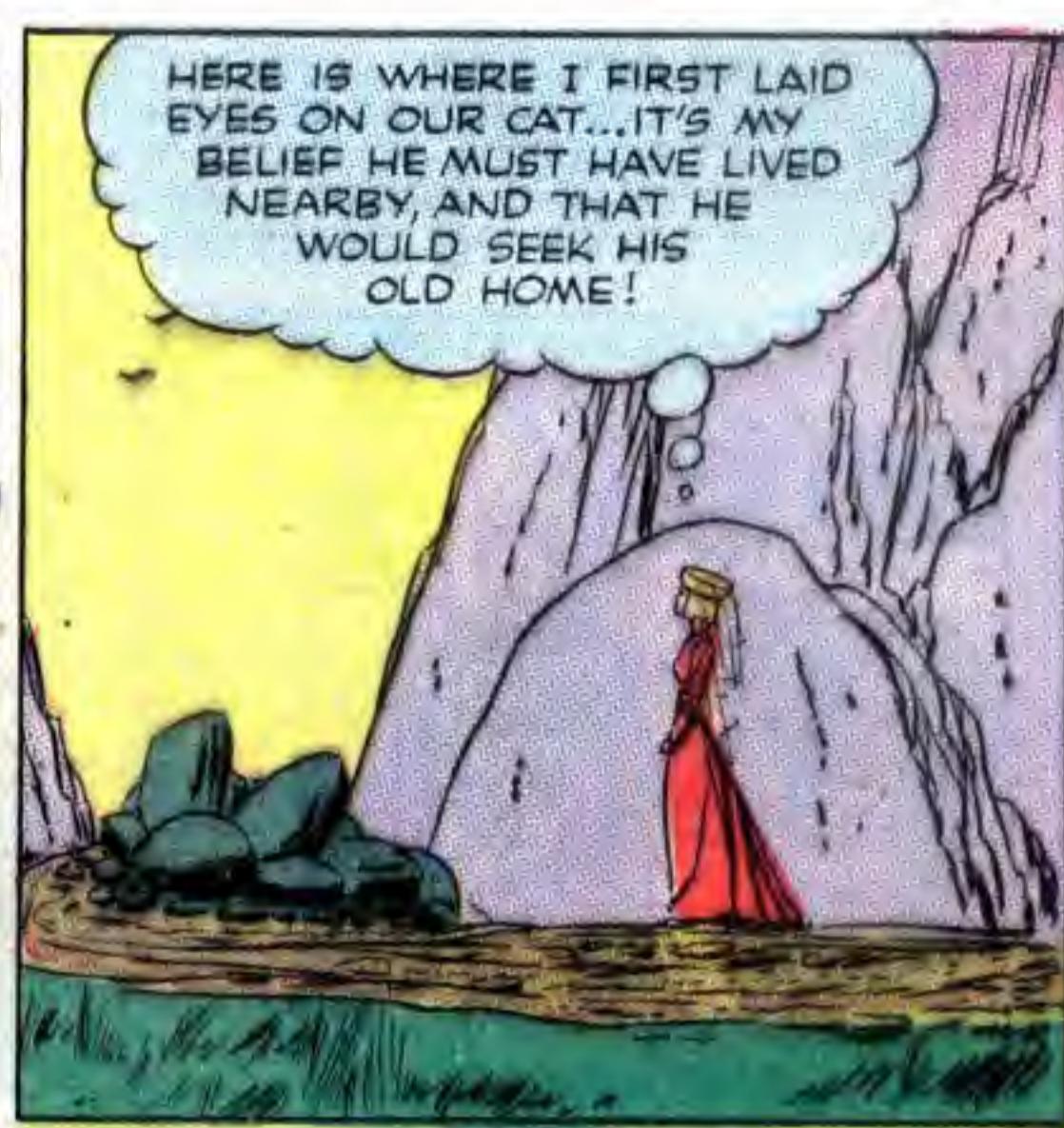
HE DOES NOT SEEM TO WISH A BATH!

BUT THE KING ORDERED IT AND WE MUST OBEY! COME, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY...NICE KITTY...

STOP! COME BACK! HALT, I SAY!

WHATEVER SHALL WE TELL THE KING?

HISSSS



MY CAT—HE'S RETURNED! GOOD FORTUNE IS MINE AGAIN! LET THERE BE REJOICING! ORDER THE COURT SCULPTOR TO CARVE A HUGE MONUMENT OF HIM! ORDER A HOLIDAY ON THE DAY OF THE UNVEILING!

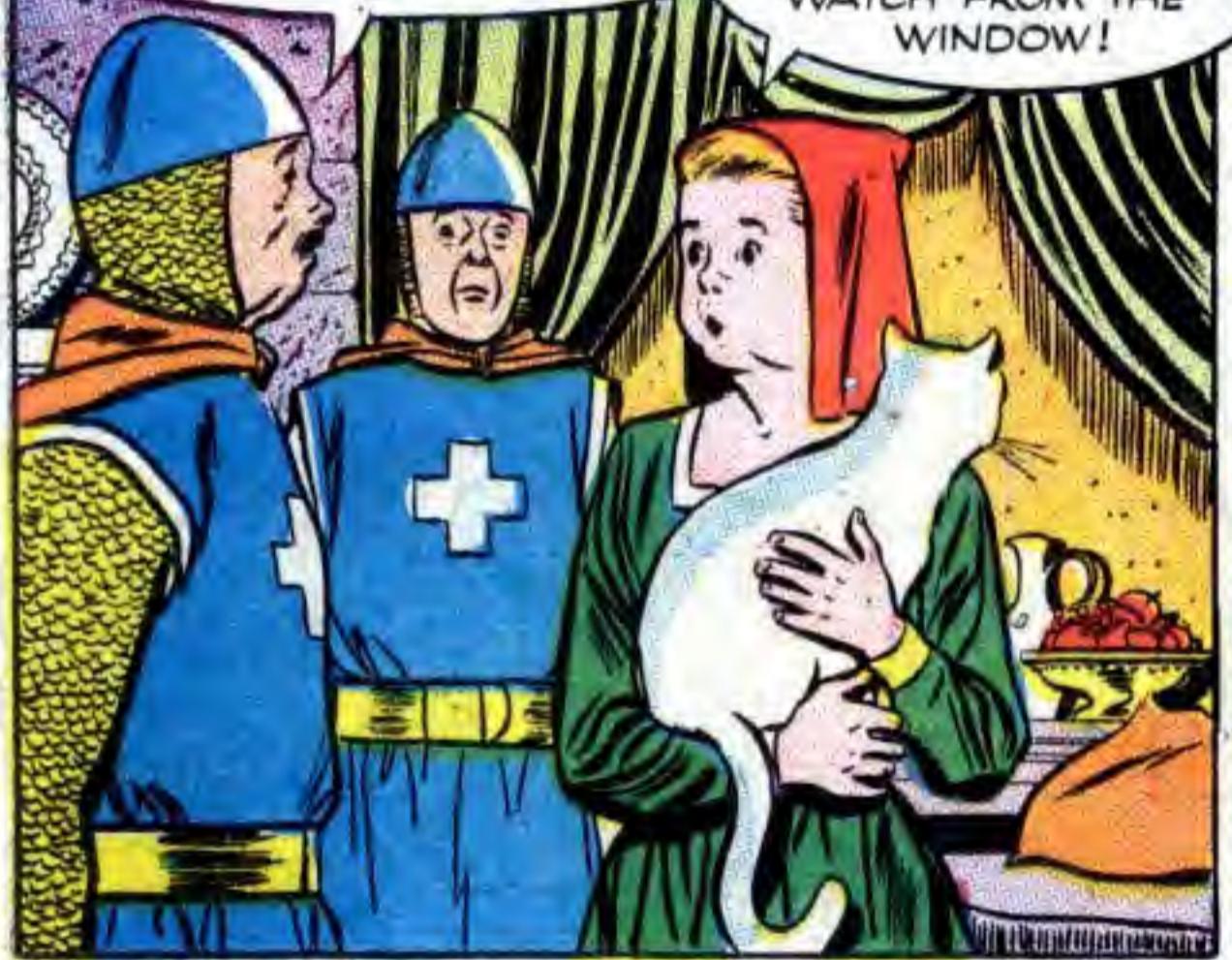


AHH, SABER, IN JUST AN HOUR YOUR STATUE WILL BE UNVEILED! LOOK! SEE ALL THE PEOPLE GATHERED IN YOUR HONOR—TO THINK YOU AND I WILL SIT WITH THE KING AND...BUT WHAT IS THAT? RAINDROPS?



WE ARE THE HONOR GUARD SENT BY THE KING TO ESCORT YOU AND SABER TO THE UNVEILING CEREMONY!

HE CANNOT GO! TELL THE KING THAT SABER HAS THE SNIFFLES AND MUST WATCH FROM THE WINDOW!



PREPOSTEROUS! FETCH SABER AT ONCE! HE MUST BE PRESENT AT THE UNVEILING OF HIS OWN STATUE!



TODAY WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO WITNESS THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF SABER, THE CAT WHO HAS BROUGHT GREAT LUCK TO OUR KINGDOM!

OH, MERCY—
THE SKIES ARE DARKER!
IF IT RAINS,
SABER'S WHITE-WASH WILL COME OFF!



UNVEIL THE STATUE THAT ALL MAY SEE SABER IN GLEAMING WHITE MARBLE!
SABER, THE LUCKY WHITE CAT!



OH...OH, DEAR...THE WHITE-WASH IS ALL WASHING OFF! OH...WHATEVER WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY LEARN THAT YOU ARE TRULY BLACK!



LOOK! HA, HA, HA, HA! THE KING'S PET IS A BLACK CAT! A WHITE MARBLE STATUE TO A BLACK CAT! HA, HA, HA, HA! A BLACK CAT FOR LUCK! HO, HO, HO!



IMPOSTERS! YOU SHALL RUE THIS DAY! YOU SHALL BE EXILED! I WILL HAVE THE STATUE DESTROYED AND HAVE THIS MISERABLE CAT SKINNED ALIVE!

FATHER! STOP! LISTEN TO ME!



WHITE OR BLACK, SABER BROUGHT YOU LUCK! THAT PROVES HOW FOOLISH YOUR SUPERSTITIONS ARE! YOU CANNOT DENY HE SAVED MY LIFE! YOU MUST BE FAIR!

HMM...YOU ARE RIGHT... YOU ARE RIGHT!

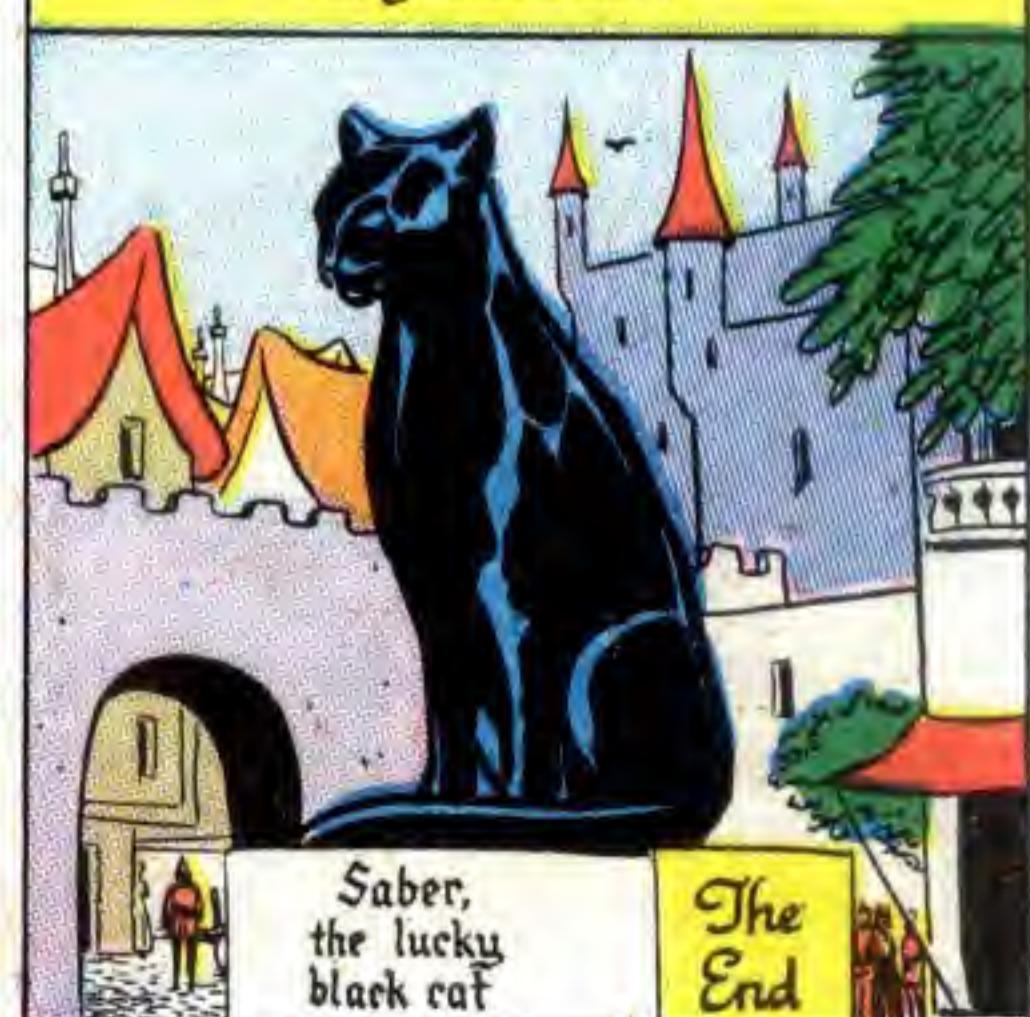


I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND! PAINT THE STATUE **BLACK**! REVOKE ALL THE LAWS I HAVE MADE ABOUT SUPERSTITIONS! HENCEFORTH I SHALL STOP WORRYING OVER OMENS OF BAD LUCK! IT IS GOOD LUCK I SHALL SEEK!

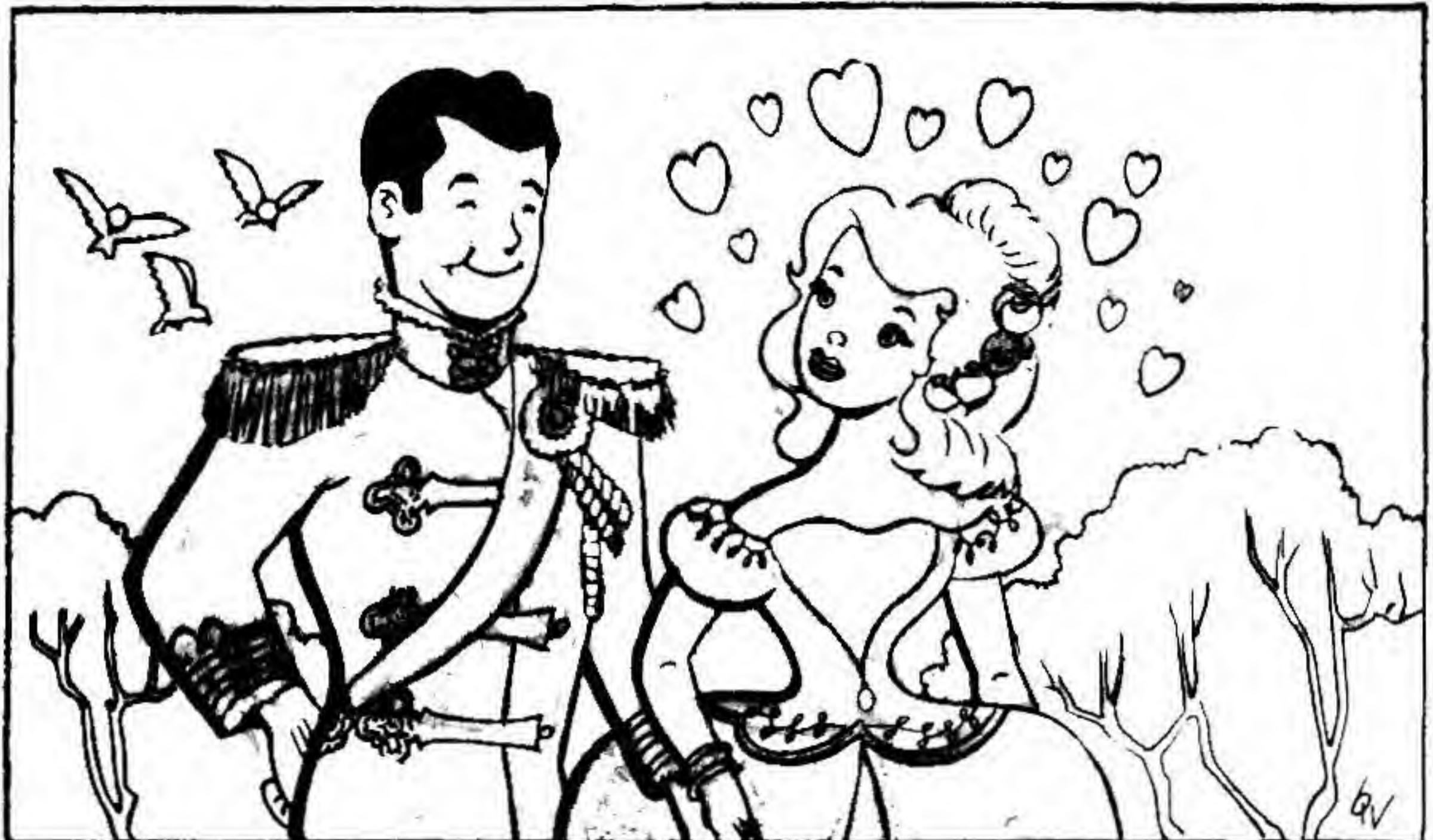
HURRAY!
LONG LIVE
THE KING!



And to this day, in the kingdom there stands a huge black statue of Saber, the lucky black cat!



The End



The Mothers of a Princess

by Hildegarde O'Brien

Once upon a time, and I say once, because this particular story could only happen once.

It was in the old days in the little kingdom of Fortuna. This tiny country was named Fortuna because it was the richest of all the countries anywhere in that part of the world.

Everything seemed to go well in Fortuna. The land was so fertile that the farmers had four crops a year. In the very center of the kingdom, there was a wondrous mine that produced enormous quantities of gold and all sorts of precious jewels, diamonds, rubies and sapphires—the biggest in the whole world.

Now, King John was a very kindly man and he thought that he should travel abroad and visit neighboring countries, some of which were very poor, to see if he couldn't share the wonderful wealth of Fortuna with them and help their poor people.

When he left on this long pilgrimage, he stopped at a school in the mountains to say goodbye to his darling daughter, Charlotte, who was his only child and a most beautiful princess. He told her that while he was away she must leave school and go back to the castle to keep her mother company. Princess Charlotte had been in school now for four years and had not seen her mother in all that time.

When she arrived at the castle, she thought her mother looked a little different, but imagined that it must be because she had changed with the passing years. What surprised her most was that her mother was very mean and unkind. She told poor Charlotte that she must stay in her room at all times, and outside her door were two fierce hunting dogs, who would not let her pass even into the castle hallways.

Every night Charlotte could hear sobbing and moaning from the room next to hers and every once in awhile the voice would say, "John dear, help me, I'm a prisoner."

Sometimes there seemed to be strange noises and conversation outside her door, and she tried very hard to hear what was going on. One day she heard her mother talking with the Prime Minister, and she said, "We must finish the job quickly. We must get rid of the Queen and the Princess before King John returns from abroad."

When Charlotte recovered from this terrible shock, she began to think about what was really going on. And it came to her suddenly that this was not her real mother at all. This was not the real Queen.

And sure enough, when the King left an evil woman who looked quite a lot like the real Queen, conspired with the Prime Minister to seize the rich kingdom. She would be the new Queen, and she looked enough like the real Queen so that the people of the kingdom would never know. That is why she had locked up the real Queen and Charlotte and hoped to do away with them both. They had already sent a secret agent to kill the King while he was on his foreign travels.

Little Princess Charlotte did not know what to do. She could think of nothing else except to pray, and her prayers were answered because two days later, unexpectedly, King John returned, bringing with him a handsome Prince from a nearby kingdom.

You can imagine the surprise of the false Queen and the scheming Prime Minister, when they saw the King ride up to the castle two months before they had planned. As soon as the King entered the great hallway of the castle and saw the false Queen, he knew that an evil scheme was underway. So surprised by the King's hasty return were the false Queen and the Prime Minister that they quickly confessed all, and the King rushed to the tower of the castle to release his real beautiful Queen and his darling daughter, the beautiful princess—just in time too.

The false Queen and the Prime Minister were banished forever from the country, and the Princess was very happy to be reunited with her loving father and mother. But best of all, as soon as she met the handsome Prince, whom her father had brought home with him, she fell completely in love. Soon they were married in a beautiful royal wedding, and a few years later, Princess Charlotte and her consort, Prince Henry, became King and Queen of Fortuna.

THE BARON *and the* CHIMNEY SWEEP

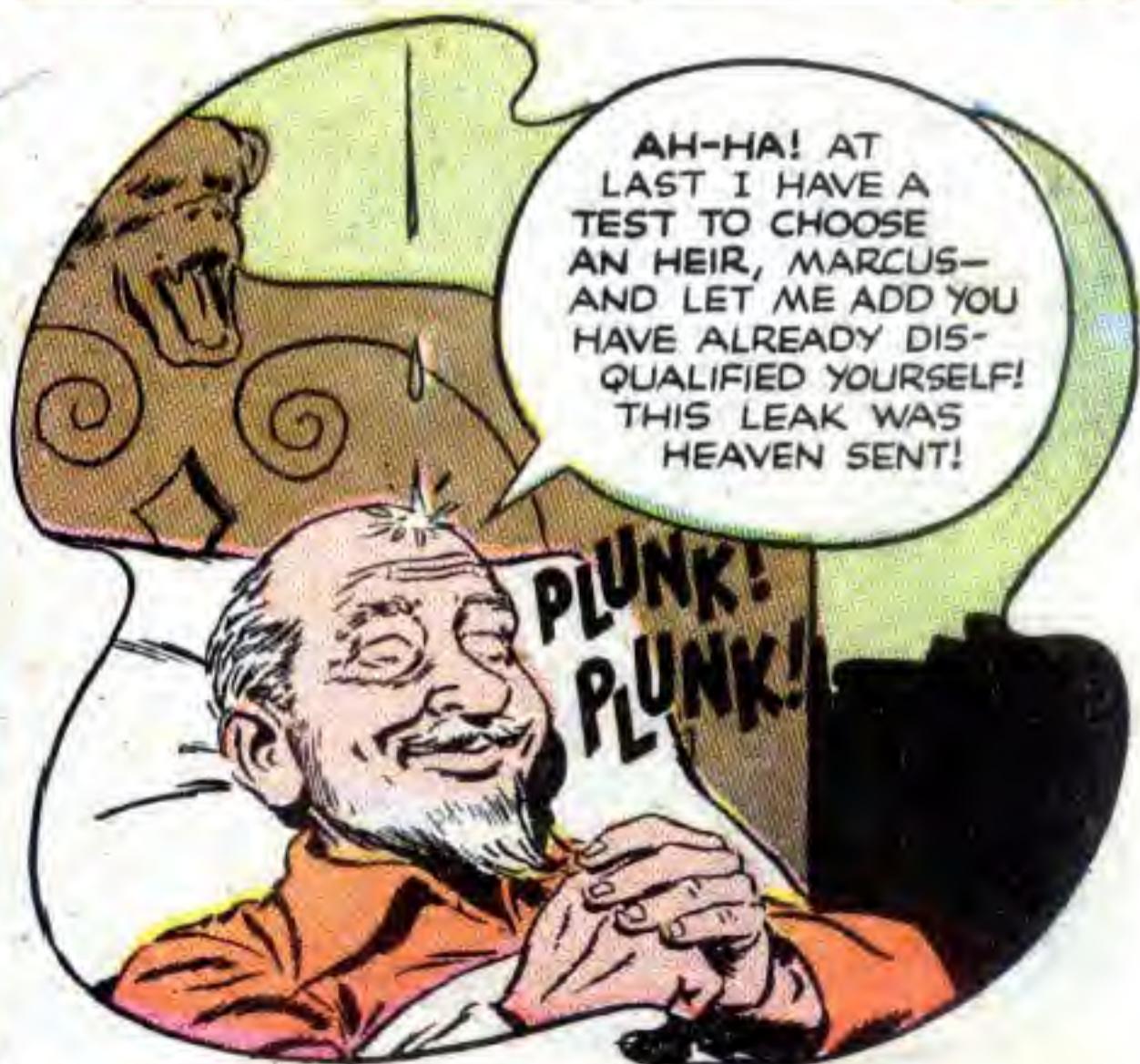
I will now tell you the story of a wise old baron who lived many centuries ago and ruled his people with a gentle hand. Every-

one—the baron himself—for he had no heir to carry on in his place, and had few days left to live ...

HALT!
THAT BOY
CAN'T PASS INTO
THE BARON'S
CASTLE IN
THOSE RAGS!

BUT HE
IS CLEAN! IT
IS THE ONLY
GARMENT HE
OWNS!





ISSUE A PROCLAMATION THAT I AM SEEKING AN HEIR! LET IT BE KNOWN THAT ALL YOUNG MEN UNDER SIXTEEN WHO ARE SANE OF MIND ARE ELIGIBLE! THOSE WHO WISH TO QUALIFY MUST COME AND SPEND A NIGHT AT THE CASTLE!

THE PROCLAMATION WILL BE PREPARED AT ONCE, BARON!

NEVER HAS THE VILLAGE SEETHED WITH SUCH EXCITEMENT!

I WONDER WHO THE LUCKY LAD WILL BE?

COME, CHARLIE, LET US GO HOME! YOU MUST BATHE AND CHANGE INTO YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES!



Boys came from every part of the Baron's domain...

SHOULD HE CHOOSE ME, I COULD AFFORD TO EAT PASTRIES ALL DAY LONG!

IF I'M THE LUCKY ONE, NEVER AGAIN WILL I RISE AT DAWN TO MILK THE COWS!

OF COURSE HE WILL CHOOSE ME!



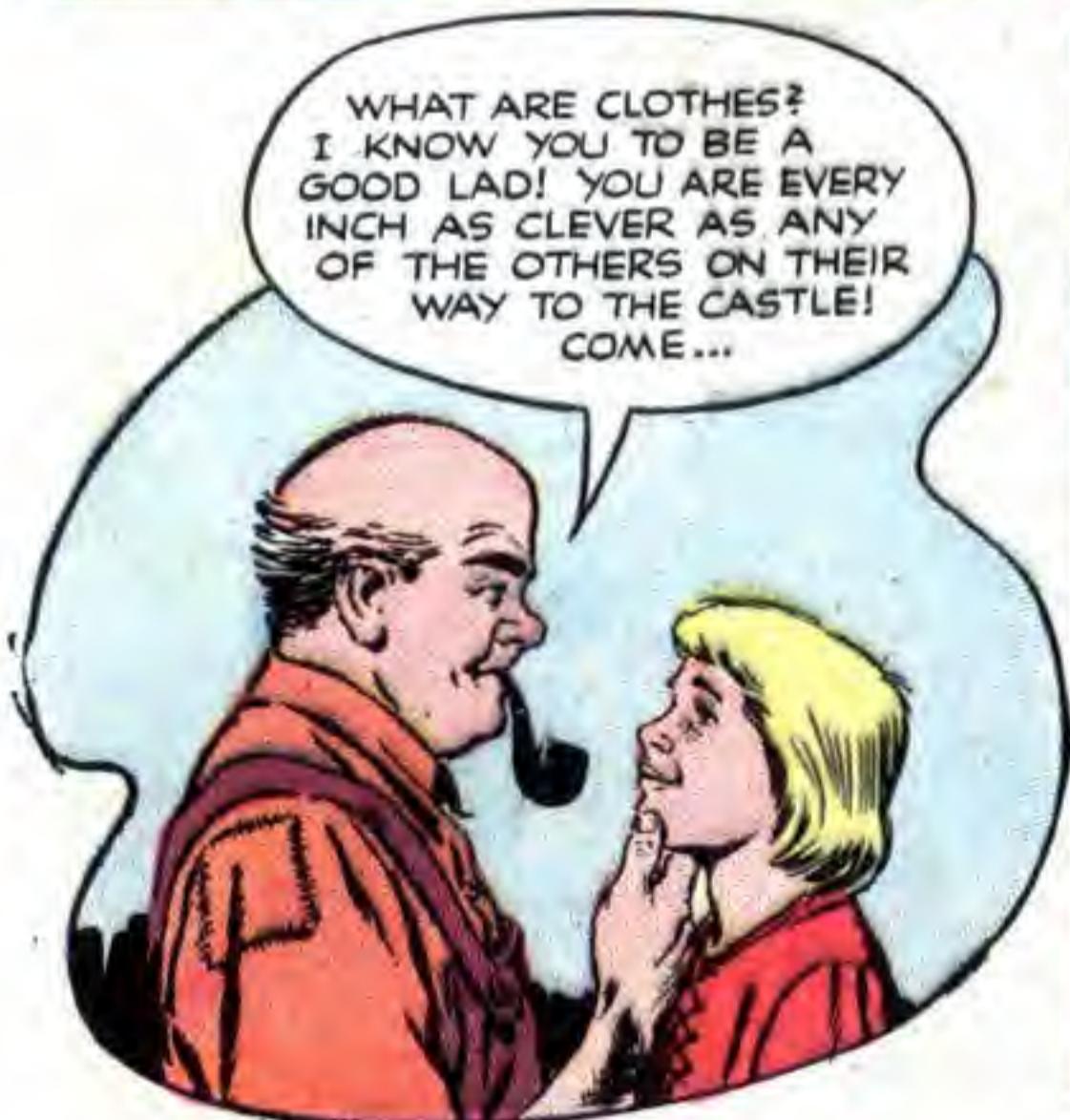
Near the village square lived a poor chimney sweep and his young apprentice, Sooty...

SOOTY, THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU SHOULD NOT GO AT ONCE AND TRY FOR THE HONOR!

OH, MASTER, WHAT CHANCE WOULD A POOR CHIMNEY SWEEP HAVE? LOOK AT ME! MY CLOTHES ARE ALL STREAKED AND TORN! NO, THIS TEST IS NOT FOR ME!



WHAT ARE CLOTHES? I KNOW YOU TO BE A GOOD LAD! YOU ARE EVERY INCH AS CLEVER AS ANY OF THE OTHERS ON THEIR WAY TO THE CASTLE! COME...



HALT! THAT BOY CAN'T PASS INTO THE BARON'S CASTLE IN THOSE RAGS!

LOOK BENEATH THE SHIRT AND YOU WILL SEE A LAD PURE AND GOOD, WITH A HEART OF GOLD!

SEE, I TOLD YOU! DO NOT ARGUE, MASTER! LET US BE GONE!





THERE YOU ARE! I TOLD YOU SO! HE, TOO, HAS MOVED HIS BED! NOW HE WILL GO BACK IN AND GO TO SLEEP LIKE ALL THE REST!

WAIT! LOOK!

WHAT IS HE DOING WITH THAT CANDLE?

PLUGGING THE HOLE, OF COURSE! THAT'S MY BOY! HE IS THE ONE! I HAVE FOUND MY HEIR!

The next day...

I HAVE CHOSEN! THERE WAS BUT ONE LAD, SOOTY SWEEPER, WHO SHOWED IMAGINATION AND INGENUITY! HE IS TO BE MY HEIR, AND HENCEFORTH LIVE AT THE CASTLE WITH ME!

THANK YOU, YOUR LORDSHIP, BUT I CANNOT LIVE HERE—NOT WHILE MY KIND MASTER IS NOT ALLOWED TO PASS THE GATES! I OWE MY GOOD FORTUNE TO HIM!

GUARD, LET THAT GOOD MAN PASS!

I KNEW YOU COULD NOT FAIL!

YOU ARE WELCOME TO LIVE IN THE CASTLE FOREVER! YOUR FAITH IN SOOTY PROVES YOUR WISDOM, TOO! I APPOINT YOU TO BE HIS CHIEF ADVISOR!

...and Sooty ruled his domain for many, many years—the happiest domain in those lands—with his wise and kind friend by his side...

THE OLD BARON WOULD BE PROUD TO SEE HOW WELL YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR DUTIES! YOU ARE LOVED BY ALL SUBJECTS, BARON!

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR WISE ADVICE, DEAR OLD FRIEND! BY THE WAY, SOOTY IS STILL MY NAME!

The End

Fun Page

1 THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STRANGE THINGS GOING ON, AS THE SERVANTS AT CASTLE MIXUP GET EVERYTHING READY FOR THE PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY! SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIND! 15 IS GOOD; 20 IS EXCELLENT; 25 OR MORE, SUPERIOR!



2

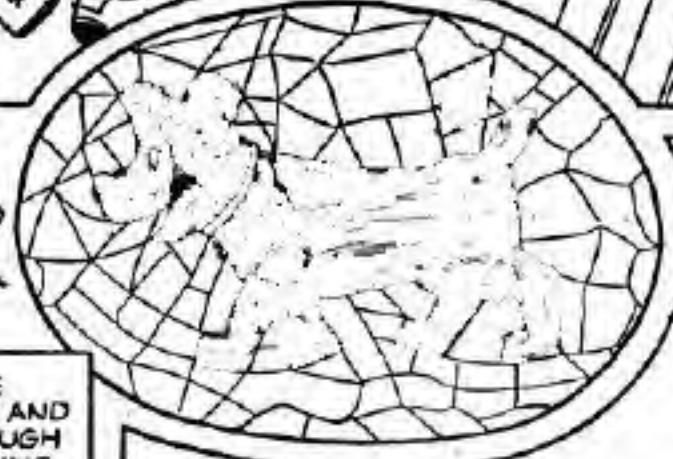
THE KING SENT HIS PRIME MINISTER 50 MILES AWAY TO GET A BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT THE PRINCE ESPECIALLY WANTED! IF YOU BLACK IN THE DOTTED PIECES WITH A PENCIL, YOU'LL SEE WHAT IT IS!

4

AND HERE ARE THE PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY PRESENTS! LOOK CAREFULLY AND SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIND THAT BEGIN WITH THE LETTER "C"!

3

RETURNING TO THE CASTLE, THE PRIME MINISTER LOSES HIS MAP, AND HAS TO FIND HIS WAY BACK THROUGH UNKNOWN COUNTRY WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT BY THE ROBBER BARON, WHO IS LYING IN WAIT FOR HIM! CAN YOU GET HIM BACK SAFELY?



1 THREE ARE JUST 32 MISTAKES! 2 IT'S A PUPPY, AND HIS NAME IS ROVER! 3 KEEP AT IT, AND YOU'LL GET BACK SAFELY! 4 IF YOU LOOK VERY HARD, YOU'LL FIND 27 PRESENTS THAT BEGIN WITH A "C"!



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